

Family Mediation FAQs

1. How does the mediation get started?

First, both parties have to agree to attend mediation and they have to agree on who the mediator should be. If you think mediation is a good idea then contact your partner or spouse and have them call for a consultation.

2. Who pays for mediation?

Both parties share in the cost of mediation. Payment is made at the conclusion of each mediation session.

3. How long do mediation sessions last?

It depends on a number of factors such as the number of parties, the number and complexity of the issues and the depth of the conflict.

Most mediation sessions last 2-3 hours and it usually takes several sessions to fully discuss and resolve the issues.

4. Are there other costs?

When the parties reach a consensus on the issues the mediator drafts a Memorandum of Understanding documenting the agreements that the parties have reached. Parties are advised to consult independent counsel to have the agreement drafted into a formal separation or divorce agreement. This time is billed at the same hourly rate as mediation sessions.

5. How do mediation costs compare to litigation of family disputes?

Mediation costs usually range between \$2000-\$4000 while contested divorce cases can run \$30-\$40,000 per spouse.

6. How can I help ensure a successful mediation?

You should prepare for mediation. Think about what is important to you and how you might be able to get your needs met. You have the ability in mediation to come up with creative ways of solving the problem before you. If the mediator asks you to complete forms or get information in between sessions the more complete and accurate that information is the more progress we will be able to make.