

Caught on a Wheel to Nowhere?

We've all been there: those conversations that go 'round and 'round and never resolve the problem. Separation and divorce are major life events that carry permanent emotional, practical and financial consequences. Without help, the particulars can become a painful never-ending wheel of conflict.

The adversarial legal process, focused on assigning blame about past events, deepens the wound and exhausts financial resources. A busy, detached court will eventually impose a decision about the immediate situation that everyone will have to live with. This process carries a high emotional and financial cost. Without resolving the underlying conflict, resentment, frustration and anger will continue to fester and undermine future interactions about parenting and finances, with each party looking for revenge or to continue to prove their point.

Trained mediators at Candlewood Mediation Center, LLC, help couples resolve the issues that carry powerful negative emotions and life-long consequences respectfully, thoroughly and effectively. This experienced psychologist-lawyer/social worker team turns unproductive arguments into meaningful conversations that result in a complete, long-lasting agreement which will be accepted by the court in your divorce action. By addressing the underlying conflict, setting ground rules for the transition through divorce, and planning for financial change, each party is able to move forward independently in a healthy way.

Your divorce does not have to be a disaster. Tom and Katherine will help you keep your priorities straight.

*Divorce Co-Mediation to Resolve
All Issues Including:*

Support

Parenting plans and schedules

Future decision-making

Division of assets

Special needs of children/families

Allocation and payment of debts

Mild to high levels of conflict

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Candlewood Mediation Center, LLC

DIVORCE & SEPARATION CO-MEDIATION



M. Katherine Webster-O'Keefe, J.D., M.S.W.
Family Attorney

Thomas J. Condon, Ph.D., P.C.
Child and Family Psychologist

*Resolving family conflicts
through Mediation*

Private, Cost-Effective and Dignified



Co-mediation

Co-mediation provides a divorcing couple with the opportunity to work jointly with two mediation professionals: a family lawyer and a clinical psychologist. Each mediator brings a special expertise to the process. The attorney guides the couple through the legal process of divorce and helps them navigate the various financial and practical issues they face. The psychologist's insights into family dynamics help overcome emotional and communication obstacles and provide information about the effect a couple's decisions, especially parenting arrangements, will have on their children.

Lower Cost, Better Value

A co-mediated divorce is often the least costly and most efficient route through the divorce process. Complex legal and emotional realities can easily overwhelm a divorcing couple. The fear and anger generated by the adversarial process work against a cost-effective, permanent resolution while depleting valuable financial resources and damaging family relationships.

Helping clients communicate effectively, while keeping powerful emotions in check, this lawyer/psychologist team guides the couple more quickly toward an enduring and informed settlement. Settlements reached through co-mediation focus on creating and continuing a healthy environment for the children, enhancing their ability to become healthy adults. By working together couples find

creative breakthrough solutions leading toward a healthy future.

Parties who negotiate agreements in mediation are more likely to live up to their agreements and avoid post-divorce problems and litigation than couples who have decisions made for them by the court or lawyers.

Are You:

- Worried, confused and overwhelmed by the prospect of a divorce or separation?
- Unable to talk productively with your spouse?
- Frightened for the future of your children?
- Worried about the cost of a divorce?
- Uncomfortable with the thought of someone outside the family making decisions for your family?

Take Control:

- Control your own divorce process and cost.
- Make your own decisions, instead of having strangers make them for you.
- Preserve a working relationship with the other parent of your children.
- Maintain dignity in reaching an agreement that is fair to both you and your spouse.
- Preserve marital assets that would otherwise be used to finance a court battle.
- Improve communication skills and understand each other's concerns to improve post-divorce relations and reduce long-term stress.
- Improve the quality of life for your children by reducing hostility and tension.

Katherine Webster-O'Keefe, J.D., M.S.W.

Since 1983 Katherine has provided legal guidance to families in the transition of divorce. For more than 20 years she represented individual spouses in the adversarial court process. She was appointed to represent many children in contested custody and parenting cases. She serves as a family master in the Danbury and Litchfield Superior Courts. Since 2004 she has limited her practice to helping families resolve their divorces and other family disputes with dignity outside the adversarial court system. Attorney Webster-O'Keefe is a member of the American and Connecticut Bar Associations, the Association for Conflict Resolution, the Connecticut Council for Divorce Mediation and other alternative dispute resolution organizations.

Thomas J. Condon, Ph.D., P.C.

With over thirty years experience as a family psychologist helping couples, parents and families resolve conflict, Tom helps divorcing couples manage their emotions and communicate effectively during the mediation process. As a trained child psychologist and former clinical director of a child guidance center, he also brings expertise concerning child development and adjustment, helping divorcing parents insure their children's safe passage through this often difficult family transition. Dr. Condon, a licensed clinical psychologist, is a member of the American and Connecticut Psychological Associations as well as of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. As a professional mediator, he is a member of the Association for Conflict Resolution and the Connecticut Council for Divorce Mediation.

*Private, Cost-Effective and Dignified
Call us now for a free consultation!*