

FAQ's ABOUT DIVORCE MEDIATION

How much does a mediated divorce cost?

A mediated divorce can cost, on average, between \$2,000 and \$5,000 versus a "traditional" divorce which can cost \$10,000 or MUCH more. In general, the process takes three to five sessions and a couple can avoid all of the motions, interrogatories, conferences, court visits associated with the "traditional" divorce route.

"My spouse and I can't communicate and every time we try it ends up in a fight."

Mediation is a viable option in the majority of cases including higher conflict situations. You don't have to "like" each other – you just have to be smart enough to recognize that you will both be better off if you mediate your divorce.

"How can I be sure I am getting a fair deal?"

A mediator will apprise you of the law and of possible outcomes if you were to go to court and the final agreement consists of terms that both spouses willingly agree to. Additionally, a couple is free to consult with an attorney at any point during the process and an attorney review of the final agreement is encouraged.

"Does a mediator try to get us back together?"

No. A mediator is not a counselor. However, mediation is less adversarial and promotes improved communication opening the possibility of a positive post-divorce relationship which is especially important when a couple will be co-parenting.



DIVORCE MEDIATION It just makes sense

Michele M. Martin
Divorce Mediator
Certified Divorce Financial Analyst®
(518) 813-6098

Michele M. Martin, Divorce Mediator and DIVORCE AGREE are conveniently located in the Malta Commons Business Park directly off of exit 12 of the Northway.

For useful information and worksheets visit our website at

www.divorceagree.com

Call (518) 813-6098 to schedule a free consultation.



www.divorceagree.com
100 Saratoga Village Boulevard, Bldg. 37
Malta, NY 12020 (518) 813-6098

GETTING DIVORCED?

DIVORCE MEDIATION
is a better way

Why would anyone go the "traditional" divorce route when there is a better way?

In mediation a couple sits down with a neutral third party who helps them work through the issues of their divorce including property division, parenting and support. The agreements made in mediation form the divorce settlement agreement. Mediation allows a couple to control the process, is confidential, fast and **significantly less expensive** and **IT JUST MAKES SENSE!**



Michele M. Martin
Divorce Mediator
Certified Divorce
Financial Analyst®

I am passionate about helping couples end their marriage in as dignified and cost effective way as possible. **Call me today for a free consultation at (518) 813-6098**



www.divorceagree.com
100 Saratoga Village Boulevard, Bldg. 37
Malta, NY 12020 (518) 813-6098



Michele M. Martin
Divorce Mediator
Certified Divorce Financial Analyst®
(518) 813-6098
www.divorceagree.com

Topics for Divorce Mediation

PARENTING

Access to Information & People: Educational and medical records; Teachers, doctors, etc.

Medical Emergencies: Decision making, notification, legal consent

Daily Schedule: Children's living arrangements for a typical week

Holidays: Secular and religious holidays, birthdays, reunions

Vacations: Summer vacations, winter and spring breaks, travel

Transportation: Pick-up and drop-off arrangements

Parental Change of Residence: Restrictions, notice

Decision-Making: Major decisions about education, medical treatment, religion, discipline, safety

Renegotiation: Periodic review of plan, building in flexibility

Conflict Resolution: Structure for settling any future disputes

DIVISION OF PROPERTY

Full Disclosure: Gathering and sharing of financial information and documentation concerning all assets and debts

Procedure for Division:
Identification
Valuation
Marital vs. Non-Marital Division

Assets:
Household Furnishings
Vehicles
Other Personal Property
Bank Accounts
Accounts Receivable
Stocks, Bonds, Funds
Real Estate
Life Insurance
Business Interests
Pensions, IRA, 401(k), etc.
Patents, Stock Options, etc.

Debts:
Mortgages
Bank Loans (e.g., car loans)
Loans on Life Insurance
Personal Loans
Credit Cards

CHILD SUPPORT AND SPOUSAL SUPPORT

Budgeting: Children's expenses and parents' expenses

Income: Identifying all sources

Child Support: Calculating basic support level, school tuition, extraordinary medical expenses, childcare expenses, camp fees

Spousal Support: Needs, amount, type, and duration

Adjustments: Cost of living, changed circumstances

OTHER FINANCIAL ISSUES

Medical Insurance

Life Insurance

College Tuition & Expenses

Taxes:
Dependency Exemptions,
Dividing Refunds & Liabilities,
Alimony vs. Child Support