

Divorce Mediation Process Map

With or without minor children, for a **divorce mediation** in California.

Free Consultation – then:

DECIDE TO MEDIATE

Each family is different, so we will mix, match, and adapt the items in the following plan to meet your family's unique situation. We may spend one session per topic, or more, or combine two or more topics in each session.

Sign an "Agreement to Mediate"



BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR MEDIATION

How to Prepare / What to Prepare
Topics to Consider
What to Expect
Telling Your Children

1+ sessions



If you have minor children:

DEVELOPING YOUR PARENTING PLAN

Joint Custody / Legal Custody / Physical Custody
Parenting Time
Developmental Considerations

1+ sessions

Homework: Bring requested information of "Income and Expenses" that is relevant for child support, and for spousal support if spousal support is needed or requested.



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MEDIATOR

Mediating In-Person and Online

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DISCUSS CHILD SUPPORT and/or SPOUSAL SUPPORT (as needed)

This may take more than one session - OR - It may be combined with another topic

½ session to 1+ sessions

Homework: Prepare a draft list of assets and debts.



START WITH A LIST OF WHAT YOU HAVE and WHAT YOU OWE

Good decisions come from careful consideration of good information.

Do you need any expert opinions of values or issues?

1+ sessions

Homework: Obtain appraisals, etc., if needed.



DIVIDE, SELL, or SHARE

Begin discussions of who needs what, why, and how to make it happen.

This may be what you think of first, when you think "mediation."

1+ sessions

Mediator's Homework: Prepare Draft Agreement for review.



READ THROUGH DRAFT AGREEMENT

Propose changes, if needed.

1+ sessions

Homework: Optional but recommended – Take Draft Agreement for review by a Mediation-Friendly Attorney. May then renegotiate some items.



READ THROUGH FINAL AGREEMENT & SIGN IT

Celebrate! But it's not over until the court paperwork is completed, so read through to the COURT TRACK below to see what happens there.

You may complete your mediated agreement before opening a court file, but most families choose to open the court file, complete their mediated agreement during the court's mandatory 6-month waiting period, and then complete the forms needed for the court's judgment that the divorce is final.