



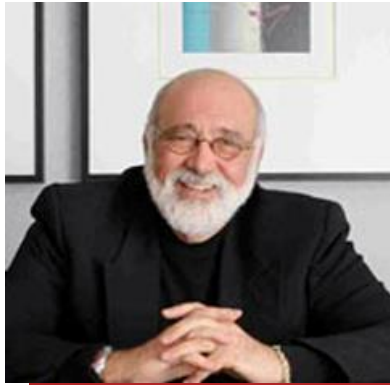
A FAIR WAY
MEDIATION CENTER



10 REASONS TO TRY DIVORCE MEDIATION

Richard Gordon, M.A. & J.D.

WELCOME LETTER



Thank you for considering A Fair Way Mediation Center. You can be assured that our experience in divorce mediation and conflict resolution will make the process as easy and affordable as possible.

For nearly 20 years, we have successfully worked to resolve issues such as child custody, asset division, spousal support, legal separations and divorce. Our ability to work with traditional marriage dissolution as well as with military couples, same-sex couples and even long distance relationships has proven to make this troubling time of life as painless as possible.

We know that you have not reached this decision lightly. Family and marital legal problems can be extremely difficult. You can rely upon on knowledge, positive perspective and creative solutions to help you sort out the challenges during this time.

Our goal is to help you manage the adjustment without conflict and without court involvement. Our mediation center understands that your case is not just a number in the court system. The choices that you make throughout the mediation process will have a life-long effect on you, your children and your former spouse. You're not only dividing your possessions, you are building a new structure for your family.

We understand that the best results occur when the emphasis is on cooperation and resolution, not adversarial conflict. Without court involvement, we can reach your goals of finding a fair solution.

During many years of practicing law, prior to becoming a full time mediator, I came to learn that many divorces and conflicts can be settled without every stepping inside of a courthouse. A Fair Way Mediation Center will spend the time to educate you about your options to share and enhance the time you spend with your children, methods to divide property equitably and the best ways to financially take care of your family as well as emotionally support yourself.

We pledge to discuss all options and alternatives on the table and then help you resolve your situation. It may not always be easy. It does take some work. Together we can find workable solutions.

Thank you once more considering us. We look forward to working with you. If you have any questions feel free to email or call me.

Sincerely,

Rich Gordon, M.A., J.D.

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10 REASONS TO TRY DIVORCE MEDIATION

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It costs less.

When both spouses meet with our Mediation Team they can share the cost, which is commonly \$1,500 to \$5000 total. If the spouses were to retain separate attorneys to represent them in the divorce, each would be paying a retainer of about \$5,000.00 just to get started. Then each consultation, court appearance, and often each phone call can have additional cost which in an adversarial divorce often add up to over \$20,000 for each person involved.

You have control.

In Divorce Mediation the couple controls how quickly or slowly decisions are made and what the terms of the divorce will be. Each step is by agreement, in contrast to the adversarial process in which attorneys set court dates and judges make decisions with very limited time and information.

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Written Settlement Terms.

Many people try to do their own divorces these days, but run into difficulty trying to understand the laws and the complex paperwork involved. A mediator will help you in reducing your agreement to a Marital Settlement Agreement which will save you time, energy, and cost when filed with the court to obtain the Judgment of Divorce.

Easier on the children.

The worst aspect of a divorce for children is the conflict between the parents. It will be traumatic enough for them, but they can heal knowing that their parents are working together to make adult decisions and will not put them in the middle.

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Easier on you.

The way your marriage ends will significantly impact the way you approach your future relationships. When you use a mediator to help both of you communicate and make important decisions, it can be easier to move forward and accept the past, rather than turning hurt and anger into an expensive court battle.

You can still go to court.

When people use divorce mediation, they do not give up their right to go to court. If you are not satisfied in mediation, you can stop at any time, retain a separate attorney and have the judge decide the issues. What has occurred in mediation will remain confidential, so the parties can start fresh.

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You get legal information.

In divorce mediation you will be provided with enough legal information to make your own decisions about what is fair. The mediator cannot advise either party but can share his or her general knowledge of how the court might address the issues in your case. Each spouse is also encouraged to consult with a separate attorney for legal advice, especially before signing the Marital Settlement Agreement.

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Emotions can be managed.

Many people simply want to be heard and understood in the divorce process. However, on their own this can get out of control, as each person triggers anger and resentment in the other -- often unintentionally. A mediator trained in counseling can assist the parties in acknowledging feelings but not allowing feelings to control the decision-making process.

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It's confidential.

In private divorce mediation, all discussions and tentative agreements are confidential. This makes it safe to propose solutions for possible consideration without having them all thought out. This can lead to new solutions neither party had previously considered.

It builds on the positive.

In mediation, both parties are encouraged to recognize the positive in the other person and to find common ground for agreement. In court, each side must emphasize the negative about the other person in order to "win" against the other. Especially when there will be future contact between the parties, such as in parenting, whatever goodwill remains between the parties should be preserved and not destroyed.

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PICKING A DIVORCE MEDIATOR

It is recommended that a **Divorce Mediator** be knowledgeable about family law, family counseling, child development and the mediation process. Few mediators possess all of these skills. A Fairway Mediation Center, with their combined experience with high conflict families and Family Court issues provide a unique set of skills with experience in all areas important to a successful resolution.

afairwaymediation.com

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