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7 BENEFITS OF USING CIVIL MEDIATION

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WELCOME

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I specialize in mediating disputes for cases involving accident injury. I understand how important it is for everyone involved in an accident to reach a fair settlement. I work hard to ensure my clients receive what they are due, but without taking advantage of the responsible party.

I also understand the need for efficient and accurate legal services. I make it a priority to provide each and every one of my clients with my focused attention. Because I have tried both sides of cases, I have an excellent perspective on all aspect of the issue at hand. This allows me to use this experience to bring parties to a mutually satisfactory agreement. My goal is to ensure all of my clients not only receive the required attention, but also that each is happy with the resolution of the dispute.

I guarantee that clients will be treated as a top priority during their time working with my firm, Vernis and Bowling. I understand that nobody wants to feel as if they are “just a number,” especially when they are attempting to mediate a dispute. I do everything I can to provide guidance during mediation sessions, but to also ensure everyone feels comfortable and confident while discussing their concerns.

When accidents cause serious injuries, it is difficult for everyone involved. This is why it is essential you hire an experienced mediator to work through the issues and reach a resolution that is satisfactory to all involved.

Contact me, Dirk Smits at 305-664-4675 for more information or to schedule a consultation to discuss your situation.



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7 BENEFITS OF USING CIVIL MEDIATION

Mediation provides a sensible alternative to less favorable judicial options, including arbitration and litigation. Mediation is a process that allows disputing parties to have a say in the final resolution.

There are some instances in which mediation is required before a case can move forward in the legal system, because it can save money and prevent the legal system from becoming clogged, especially since so many disputes are successfully settled during mediation. The Florida court system has used mediation as a means by which to settle disputes since 1975. It continues to be one of the most effective methods for optimizing the court system's schedule and capacity.

What are some of the reasons you should consider mediation in your civil case and how can the process benefit you?

1 SAVES TIME AND MONEY

One of the most important benefits of mediation is it saves time. An attorney bills by the hour, so the faster a case is resolved, the less it costs disputing parties. Additionally, saving time allows you to return to your regular life. Even the simplest cases take a great deal of effort to resolve, so when you find a solution quickly, you are able to move forward with your plans and put the dispute behind you. This is especially important in situations involving land use or government permit issues because people are trying to establish or grow a business, so time is of the essence.

2 GIVES CONTROL TO DISPUTING PARTIES

Disputing parties like mediation because it leaves them in control of their situation. Instead of turning their fate over to a judge, they are able to explore all potential resolutions and to determine which of those options is best for their situation. Both sides of a dispute must agree for a mediation to be settled, making it possible for both to walk away from the dispute satisfied with the outcome. When cases are settle through traditional litigation, there is a good chance nobody will be completely happy with the judge's decision. This control and ability to choose "the lesser of two evils" is often what brings people to the mediation and motivates them to work through their differences.

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3 LESS FORMAL THAN COURT

Another thing many people find appealing is that mediation is less formal than litigation. Everyone is able to express his or her opinions and concerns during the mediation session without concern for formalities. It is a more relaxed environment, which many feel is conducive to getting things done. There is also not much a sense of “you against me” in mediation. Skilled mediators foster a feeling of teamwork and encourage parties to work with one another to find the best solution for both sides, so nobody feels as if they are being punished by the resolution.

4 BENEFITS LEGAL SYSTEM AND ATTORNEYS

Mediation is not only beneficial for disputing parties, it can also be better for the legal system and for attorneys. Not all mediations feature parties with individual representation, but it is an option. Mediation provides a more effective use of an attorney’s time and reduces the risk for appeals or issues with collection because both parties agree to terms. Mediation is beneficial to the legal system because it is less taxing on resources, both during and after the resolution. It allows docket management and control, and prevents the system from becoming backlogged.

5 PRIVATE

Business professionals choosing civil mediation to resolve their disputes often do so because it keeps information private. Discussions held during mediation, as well as the end result of the mediation, are not public domain. This means when sensitive issues are part of the mediation process, there is no need to worry about exposing this information to the media or the public.

6 OFFERS FLEXIBILITY

Another reason disputing parties find civil mediation attractive is because it provides them plenty of flexibility. Not only is there flexibility in creating a satisfactory resolution, there is the option of pursuing another avenue if mediation does not work. In traditional litigation and in arbitration, the end result must be accepted by all parties. Mediation allows disputing parties to explore their options and if no conclusion is reached, they still have the other options available to them. Some people view mediation as something they might as well try, since it comes at no risk.

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7 FOSTERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE A PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP

Mediation is especially good at resolving disputes in which people want to maintain a relationship once the dispute is settled. Skilled mediators encourage open and honest communication. It is an essential part of resolving the problem. Since nobody leaves a mediation feeling as if they were punished, there are fewer hard feelings. For many, mediation is a tool that helps them transition from one place to another when both parties are not in agreement about how to best do so. Instead of an ending, mediation provides a bridge from one place to another. This is especially helpful in family and business disputes.

Attorney Dirk Smits offers mediation for a variety of clients in Florida. His practice is primarily focused on City, County, and Local Government Law, and he is certified as an expert in these areas by the Florida Bar. He handles cases related to land use, acquisition, and eminent domain, and is experienced in drafting legal documents, resolutions ordinances, contracts and legal opinions.

He has tried many Personal Injury (PI) cases and done so in front of almost every Judge in the county, both as a defense attorney and a plaintiff's attorney. Because of this, he knows the juries and judges through experience and has an excellent perspective on both sides of issues. Mr. Smits uses this experience to bring parties frequently to agreement.

If you believe civil mediation could help you resolve a dispute or you would like to speak to someone about scheduling a mediation session, please contact Dirk Smits at Vernis & Bowling, Attorneys at Law.

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