



LEGNARO AKL
LAW FIRM

(305) 777 - 0480

4000 Ponce de Leon Blvd. Suite 470
Coral Gables, FL 33146



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**Benefits to Using Mediation
and Collaborative Law
during the Divorce Process**

Welcome

Welcome and congratulations on focusing on alternative dispute resolution to settle your legal issues.

Since 2002, the Legnaro Akl Law Firm has provided effective, dedicated and ethical legal services in the areas of Family law. Attorney Ilaria Akl is a Supreme Court Certified Family Law Mediator, a Collaborative Trained Attorney, and a member of the Collaborative Family Law Institute. As attorney mediators, we are especially qualified to mediate even the most complex issues. We offer innovative and practical solutions that protect our clients' best interests, resolving their issues efficiently, respectfully and affordably.

Family disputes are not only very complex but also emotionally charged. With experienced and compassionate representation, we bring back dignity and reason in otherwise overwhelming situations. After witnessing how litigation invariably fails all parties involved in family disputes, we have chosen to focus on resolving our clients' family law issues exclusively via Mediation or the Collaborative Process. We believe in rebuilding family relationships rather than destroying them. We help all parties reach mutually beneficial solutions by building bridges and fostering a civil conversation.

We invite you to learn more by reading our e-book "7 Benefits to Using Mediation and Collaborative Law during the Divorce Process".

Thanks to our extensive experience and international background, our general practice firm offers comprehensive solutions for all your legal needs, providing expert advice in Family, Immigration and Naturalization, Real Estate, Commercial, and Estate Planning law.

We are fluent in English, Italian, French and Spanish.

Building personable relations with every client is our goal, we look forward to serving your legal needs and becoming your family attorney for many years to come. Please call us for a consultation today.

Ilaria M. Legnaro Akl

Legnaro Akl Law Firm
ilaria@legnaroakl.com
www.legnaroakl.com



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Despite the frustration, heartache and anger that often accompany the divorce process, there are less complicated ways to end a marriage. Avoiding litigation and settling a divorce outside of the courtroom is often the best way to preserve family relationships. Even if a couple is no longer interested in sharing a romantic bond, it is important they maintain civility while settling financial matters or, if they have



children, laying the foundation necessary to be able to raise their children as a team. Using Mediation and Collaborative Law to reach a divorce settlement is one of the best ways to protect a family and ensure they are able to transition from one phase of their life to another with as little damage as possible.

With Mediation, couples can settle their disputes with an impartial mediator, either pro-se (on their own), or with the assistance of attorneys. Mediation focuses on helping the parties settle their affairs in a non-threatening environment, parties are empowered and retain control of their future.

Alternatively, the Collaborative Process employs a team approach to resolving all family disputes outside the courtroom. Typically the team includes an attorney for each party, a financial professional and a mental health expert, who are all trained in Collaborative Law. Collaborative Trained Attorneys remain by their clients' side throughout the process, working together with neutral financial and mental health professionals, to help the parties settle their differences. Collaborative Trained Attorneys, their team and clients sign an agreement committing to find solutions outside the courtroom, and to work out problems face to face, respectfully.

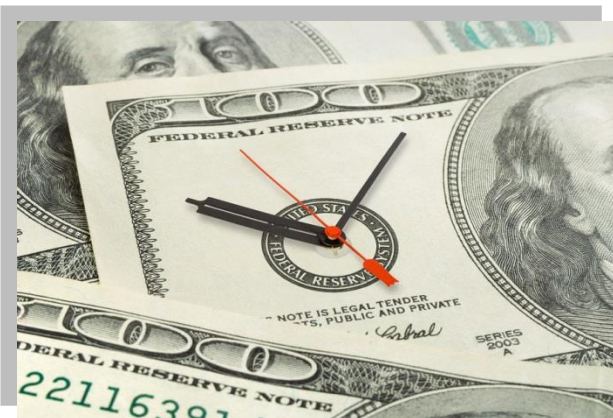


7 Benefits to Using Mediation and Collaborative Law during the Divorce Process

What are the benefits of mediation and collaborative law?

1. Less Expensive

Using alternative forms of dispute resolution makes the divorce process less expensive.



Whether you hire individual attorneys to represent you during the Mediation or you represent yourself and hire only a mediator, the process will be cheaper. Collaborative Divorces are also normally settled for a fraction of the cost of an average litigated dissolution of marriage. When litigation is required, attorneys must build a case for each spouse. The discovery process can be long and arduous, and it is billed hourly; the cost of a trial can

be prohibitive. The faster a resolution is reached and the less work involved for attorneys, the less expensive is the final bill for divorce.

2. Saves Time

In addition to the money saved, Mediation and Collaborative Law also make the process quicker by allowing a family to transition to divorce more efficiently. Both Mediation and Collaborative Law focus on finding solutions rather than dragging litigations. Though you might not feel as if rushing toward divorce is the best option for you, the smoother and quicker the transition, the better. Divorce is about new beginnings for everyone in your family. Once the decision is made to end a marriage, there is no sense dragging it out and facing a long battle.

3. Confidential

Mediation is a confidential process. If you settle your divorce in a courtroom, all of the details become a matter of public record. Even the trial is open to the public and anyone can attend. When settled outside of the courtroom, your family's "dirty laundry" remains private.



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Additionally, should Mediation not work and the need for litigation arises, the discussions held in mediation sessions remain private. Nothing said during Mediation can be used against either party down the road. Likewise, the Collaborative Process offers complete privacy and all negotiations and meetings are kept confidential. The Collaborative Process is ideal to keep your family's issues, assets, and business holdings out of the public eye. Collaborative Law is especially suited for high-net worth families or prominent individuals who need to retain their privacy.

4. Focuses on Problem Solving, Not Winning or Losing

One of the toughest parts of a contentious divorce is the ability to move forward. Despite it being best for everyone involved, especially the children in a family, moving beyond the betrayal, many spouses feel toward one another, is nearly impossible after a courtroom battle. Mediation and Collaborative Divorce focus on reaching the best resolution for everyone



involved respectfully. The process is not about winning or losing, but compromising in the best interest of the family, it is about rebuilding your future.

5. Ensures Issues are Addressed Correctly

Collaborative Divorce brings in experts to help with the divorce settlement. Whether a couple is concerned about the health and well-being of a child, own a business together, or have complicated financial issues that need to be addressed, the expert team that works with them



during the Collaborative Divorce ensures that everything is handled correctly. The prospect of making life-changing decisions can weigh heavily on a couple during divorce or while settling other family issues. It can be tough to commit to final decisions if you are concerned about something going wrong down the road. The expert support provided by the Collaborative Law

Team ensures that everything is handled properly and completely. Mediation can also assist couples in reaching the best decision for their family by ensuring that all the issues are properly identified and discussed. When all family issues are spotted and properly addressed, settlement agreements become more durable.

6. Puts Spouses in Control of their Situation

One of the things spouses like most about Mediation or Collaborative Law is the control they have over the process and the final resolution. In litigation, the judge has the final say. This means that parents are unable to make decisions for their children and that financial issues are settled by the court. During Mediation or the Collaborative Process, couples work toward a solution that is in the best interest of everyone involved.

You are making decisions for your children and your family, even though the family is transitioning to divorce and a different life. You don't delegate decisions to a judge; you retain control of your life and future.



7. Sets the Tone for Teamwork

Perhaps the greatest benefit of Mediation or of Collaborative Divorces is the tone of civility they set. When couples are able to settle their divorce issues on their own, they feel as if they can achieve anything as a team. Granted, their romantic bond has been severed and their relationship is no longer that of a married couple. However, both Mediation and Collaborative



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Law lay the foundation for finding solutions that are beneficial to all parties and that focus on rebuilding their future lives. Both Mediation and Collaborative Divorce also foster a great parental bond that makes it easier to raise children together even after you are no longer married.

Does Mediation or Collaborative Divorce sound like something you would like to explore? Are you thinking about divorce or already in the process, but you want to avoid the bitter battle that occurs when divorces are litigated in the courtroom? The Legnaro Akl Law Firm can help. Since 2002, Ilaria Akl has provided exceptional legal services in the areas of Family law (including: Mediation, Collaborative Process, divorce, custody and timesharing, child support and alimony, stepparent adoption and paternity, pre- and post-nuptial agreements, and disputes concerning same sex couples); Immigration and Naturalization Law; Real Estate and Commercial law; and Estate Planning.

Ilaria Akl has extensive legal experience, as well as a deep understanding of the business world and of difficult family dynamics, enabling her to easily navigate complex legal issues. A brilliant Mediator and public relations specialist, Ilaria is able to bring parties together, achieving remarkable results even in high conflict disputes. Ilaria's goal is to offer creative solutions to achieve the best possible results for her clients. Ilaria is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Law Mediator and a Collaborative Trained Attorney dedicated to achieving respectful and fair resolutions in all family law disputes. Ilaria is fluent in English, Italian, French and Spanish. To learn more or to schedule a consultation, contact Ilaria at 305.777.0480 - 305.302.2584 or by email at ilaria@legnaroakl.com.

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