



7 REASONS WHY DIVORCE MEDIATION WORKS



WELCOME



I specialize in helping disputing parties resolve their conflicts through mediation. I was trained at Fresno Pacific University, which included a certificate in mediation and conflict management, as well as several related classes. The resolutions I help clients achieve acknowledge injustices or interests, restore equity, and define future consequences.

Clients come to me with conflicts and I look at what can be done to solve the problem, rather than focusing on past injustices or how to take advantage of the situation.

Mediation allows trust to grow because it establishes agreements between parties and allows for legally enforceable agreements. Because both parties are involved in creating the solution, nobody feels locked into an order without sufficient input.

My goal is to use my 35 plus years of experience to help clients find long-term solutions to their disputes. I see each case through to the end and I find creative solutions that might have been overlooked previously. I help people find an arrangement that works for all involved, so future disputes are avoided. I believe this is one of the main reasons why I'm such an effective mediator. My success rate is about 95%, so in nearly every case, parties walk away from their time with me with a solution that is a workable compromise and avoids litigation.

I understand all mediations have a single core issue, but this varies from situation to situation. Sometimes people are seeking money, other times respect, and other times, an efficient, budget-friendly solution to a legal problem. In each instance, I examine the source of the problem and help clients resolve their issues in the best way possible.

Mediation requires dedication, as well as a commitment to communication and teamwork. I pledge to bring clients together to solve their disputes with long-term solutions.

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Mediation can be used in a variety of situations, but it is an especially effective tool for divorce proceedings. It provides an alternative to traditionally litigated divorce and allows both spouses to reach an agreement concerning the end of their marriage and the future of their relationship. It is also beneficial to other members of a divorcing family, including children.

If you are considering divorce or divorce proceedings have begun, it is a good idea to consider mediation as a means of resolving the situation. Why does divorce mediation work?

1. IT PUTS THE FOCUS ON HEALTHY COMMUNICATION

One of the main reasons mediation is so effective in divorce is because it fosters healthy communication. Many couples that have chosen to divorce no longer remember how to communicate with one another. They are hurt and frightened, so every conversation they attempt to have turns into a battle.

Mediation puts a neutral third party in charge of guiding communication between divorcing spouses. Instead of couples and their attorneys fighting with each other, only to have a judge intercede and making an overall ruling, a mediator guides both spouses toward a solution. There is someone facilitating healthy conversation, so it is easier to discuss issues and reach a consensus between the two parties.



2. IT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE TO EXPRESS CONCERNS AND FEARS

When communication is encouraged, both spouses are able to share their concerns and fears. In some cases, the mediator will meet separately with each spouse, as well as in a combined meeting. This gives everyone an opportunity to share what he or she is thinking and feeling without concern for judgment.

Since the mediator knows where everyone is coming from, he or she is able to guide the conversation toward the issues that need to be discussed. This makes it easier to discuss sensitive subjects and truly understand why each spouse feels a certain way about an issue.



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3. IT ALLOWS BOTH PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOLUTION

As couples discuss their issues and goals for the divorce, they work together to find a solution on which they both agree. Since both parties participate in the solution, it is easier for everyone to accept the conclusion. If a judge is forced to make the ruling, both parties could walk away from the divorce unhappy. It is almost a guarantee that at least one spouse will feel anger at the end result, but when each plays a role in determining the outcome, the marriage ends in joint agreement.

4. IT IS SOLUTIONS-ORIENTED, INSTEAD OF PUNISHING EITHER SPOUSE

All too often in divorce, one spouse is punished for his or her behavior or opinions. This is why many divorces include so much emotional turmoil. Both parties might agree it is time to end a marriage and calmly enter into divorce proceedings. However, as things move along and accusations begin to fly, what was once a reasonable situation turns into a full-blown battle.



In mediation, the focus of the proceedings is on finding a solution that works for everyone involved. Nobody is punishing anyone and parties must agree to accept reality for what it is and not be vindictive about this reality. Since a mediator oversees the proceedings, it is much easier to keep control of emotions and make rational decisions.

5. IT PUTS THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILDREN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE DIVORCE PROCESS

One of the reasons divorcing couples find mediation appealing is because it is healthier for the children in the family. Mediation puts the interest of the children at the forefront of the proceedings. If both parents agree that the health and wellness of their children is the most important factor regardless of the marriage ending, it is easier to create an arrangement that works for everyone. Again, the focus is not on punishing a soon-to-be-former spouse, but reframing the family and determining the healthiest way to move forward for all family members.



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6. IT IS FAIR

Mediation offers a divorce solution that is fair for both parties. Both spouses play a role in the final arrangement, so each has a say in what is an ideal arrangement. Parties rarely leave a mediation session feeling as if they have been taken advantage of or damaged because of the arrangement. As difficult as it might be to end a marriage, creating a fair arrangement for the future is essential if couples need to raise children together or make other decisions about future events.

7. IT IS AFFORDABLE AND TIMELY

As if fairness, the well-being of children, and less fighting are not enough, mediation offers a nuts-and-bolts benefit many divorcing couples will find very appealing: it is cheaper and takes less time than a litigated divorce. Many mediation sessions for divorce last just a few hours. This means fewer billable hours for attorneys and fewer court fees. It also means the situation is resolved in just a few days or weeks, instead of months or longer. Couples should be encouraged to give mediation a try before pursuing litigation, if for no other reason, because it could save thousands of dollars in the long-run.



Are you considering divorce or do you wish there were an easier, more amicable way to bring your marriage to a conclusion? Mediation is a solution that works for most families and might be right for you.

For more information or to schedule a free consultation, contact Linda Luke at 559-733-9505 or by email at linda.luke@icloud.com.

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