

the

F L O R I D A

GUIDE

to a

SPEEDY

PATERNITY ACTION

& *move on* with your life

by

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Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator #20836FA

 **MEDIATE**<sup>®</sup>  
online mediation conflict management

# The Florida Guide to a Speedy Paternity Action

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# Introduction

## About Matthew Brickman

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[Matthew Brickman](#) has been certified by the Supreme Court of Florida as a county civil family mediator who has worked in the 15th and 19th Judicial Circuit Courts since 2009 and 2006 respectively. He has mediated a variety of small claims, civil, and all types of family cases that number in the thousands.

Aside from paternity action, divorce and family law cases he has also mediated disputes involving building contractors, small business mergers, bedding stores, auto accidents through State Farm Insurance, landscaping companies, neighbor disputes construction companies and even home owners associations. His experience also extends into the landlord/tenant segment, insurance companies, nursing homes, municipalities and even police and fire departments.

If you wish to schedule your mediation, view his online calendar and then fill out the appropriate form for scheduling: » [Schedule Your Mediation](#)

[iChatMediation - Family Mediation Services](#)

2157 SW Heronwood Road, Palm City, Florida, 34990

Telephone: (561) 262-9121

Website: <http://www.iMediateInc.com>



## Why Mediation?

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There are many reasons to choose mediation over litigation. Here are 3 good reasons why you should mediate your paternity action.

### Reason 1: Cost.

The cost of hiring an independent, unbiased mediator to assist you in designing your own settlement is always much less than hiring multiple attorneys, accountants, and financial advisors. Attorneys, typically, foster an adversarial approach to resolution of issues, necessitating both sides to hire multiple specialists and pay astronomical professional fees in order to protect legal rights, many times leaving both parties to the dispute stripped of all financial resources. *The average couple will spend between \$5K - \$10K just to get started - with trial typically costing the same couple an additional \$10K each.*

### Reason 2: Build on the Positive.

Mediating instead of litigating gives you the opportunity to build a positive future as you move forward with your lives in different directions, instead of a negative one. By conserving financial resources, communicating and showing respect instead of fighting, taking control of your family's future and making your own choices, and viewing your paternity action from the perspective of a team instead of as adversaries, all parties can maintain their mental, emotional and physical health and move into the future in a positive way.

### Reason 3: Control

Litigation leaves you in a position where attorneys and judges make the important long-lasting decisions that affect you and your family. Don't surrender your power of choice and the control over your future. A professional mediator can help you design your own arrangements for the future that make the most sense for your own situation.

To read all 10 Reasons please refer to our guide [Top 10 Reasons to Mediate.](#)

# Part I: Process

## Paperwork Walkthrough

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Step 1: I will provide the packets for your paternity case.

Step 2: Fill out the paperwork. If you have any questions about the paperwork, leave blank and bring to mediation.

Step 3: Use this link to » [Schedule Your Mediation](#) or you can text 561-262-9121, or email at [mbrickman@ichatmediation.com](mailto:mbrickman@ichatmediation.com).

Step 4: If you have minor children together, go to the [Self-Representation Page](#) and click on the [Florida Online Coparenting Education](#) banner to take your parenting class. Print out your certificate of completion and bring to mediation. If you do not have minor children together, then skip this step.

Step 5: Bring all paperwork to mediation.

Step 6: If an agreement is reached in mediation, after mediation, file all your documents at your local courthouse.

Step 7: OPTIONAL: Hire attorney to file your paperwork and take you through final hearing to expedite the process. If you do not hire an attorney for final hearing there will be at least 1 status conference to attend with the court prior to getting a date set with the judge for your final hearing.

Step 8: Go to final hearing to get your court order for paternity.

# Part 2: Cost

## Cost Breakdown

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- 1: Your initial cost will be to obtain your packets. They run approximately \$25 and is included in the mediation fee below. I can provide the documents to you.
2. Your next cost will be to each pay for your parenting class if you have minor children together. The cost is \$39 each and payment is made to the provider of the course. This discounted price is available if you click the banner on the [Self-Representation Page](#).
3. Your next cost will be for mediation. For pricing click on the following link: [»Pricing](#). This cost is paid to the mediator at the conclusion of mediation.
4. Your next cost will be to file all the initial paperwork with the clerk of court. The cost is \$420 and is paid to the Clerk of Court or if you hire an attorney for final hearing, they will pay this cost and then you will reimburse the attorney. This cost shall be due when you file your documents.
5. Your final cost, which is OPTIONAL, is to hire an attorney to walk you through final hearing. Approximately \$500, depending on who you hire, and is paid to the attorney when you hire him/her.



# Part 3: Timeline

## Paternity Action Timeline

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1. By providing approximately 24-48 hours of notice, Matthew is available to mediate during the day, in the evening or on weekends to accommodate your work and family schedules.
2. Once mediation is concluded and if a resolution **IS NOT** achieved, a court date could be anywhere between 9-12 months away and you will most likely be required to mediate again 10 days prior to your court date depending on the rules of the court in your jurisdiction.
3. Once mediation is concluded and if a resolution **IS** achieved, a court date could be anywhere between a few weeks to a few months depending on the time of year you are filing your paperwork, how back logged the court is and which courthouse the paperwork is being filed at.
4. Once mediation is concluded and if a resolution **IS** achieved, if you hire the attorney to do your final hearing as previously mentioned, a court date could be a week or so depending on your schedule, as well as the judge and attorney's availability.

As a mediator I am unable to provide you with legal advice, but if you have any other questions regarding the process or fees, please feel free to contact me.

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# Part 4: Resources

## Additional Resources

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The following resources will provide you with information on Online Virtual Mediation and In-person Mediation Services for paternity, divorce, child custody, parenting plans, alimony and more.

- [Mediate This! Podcast](#)
- [3 Reasons You Should Choose Online Virtual Mediation](#)
- [Child Custody Mediation: Florida Child Custody Laws](#)
- [Same Sex Marriage and Divorce](#)
- [Top-10-Reasons-to-Mediate iMediate Inc](#)
- [Florida Alimony Reform Timeline](#)

» [Schedule Your Mediation](#) today!

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# Part 5: Testimonials

## Client Reviews

» [read all reviews](#)



Steph Cabassa ★★★★★

Matthew was great during my mediation this week. I was able to come to a resolution with someone who is deplorable and unwilling to cooperate 99% of the time. I was actually pleasantly surprised we came to an agreement. Matthew was kind, patient, well versed and experienced. He knew how to talk to both of us impartially and had great suggestions. I believe if we had a different mediator one of us would have walked out before coming to a resolution. Thanks Matthew!



Marie Antoinette ★★★★★

I cannot RAVE enough about Matthew Brickman. I am 100% sure, if we had been with any other person, it would have taken more than one session to come to an agreement. Matthew is extremely patient, very kind, extremely knowledgeable and helpful in helping facilitate two people going through a really difficult time in making some major life decisions. I could not imagine going through this process without his expertise. I thought it didn't really matter WHO we mediated with. I was proven wrong after this experience. I have zero regrets. Have nothing but amazing things to say about him!



Dayana Rooks ★★★★★

Mediation can be a very frightening and intimidating process, so having a skilled, creative and professional mediator makes a huge difference. Mathew made a difficult, stressful process easier. He has an incredible natural ability to talk to all of the parties involved in a sincere and impartial way, helping everyone feel (cont.) comfortable and focused. I would recommend Mathew to anyone. Thank you Mathew! A+++

**T** Tamari Suarez ★★★★★

Mr. Brickman is a professional, fair and incredibly experienced mediator. During my mediation process he made clear to both parties of the options available to us. His relaxed but reassuring attitude allowed me to feel comfortable and clear headed to make the best decisions during the divorce process. I was very comfortable with resolving matters and truly appreciated his efforts to offer suggestions that were only for the best for both sides. He definitely made the process of my divorce much more manageable. I appreciate all his efforts and truly recommend his services to others.

 MegaFlash Models MegaFlash Models ★★★★★

Matthew, helped me resolve many personal conflicts, and I was able to feel like I did come out with a winning resolution by being fair and expecting a fair outcome. I highly recommend Matthew! Never be afraid to ask Matthew for advice, he will give you his honest opinion. - WL

**E** Ellen Berlinski ★★★★★

Mr Brickman was very patient, considerate, & extremely professional throughout mediation between myself & my ex spouse. I would strongly recommend his services to anyone going through this tough & painful process. He is extremely knowledgeable & conveys empathy & understanding. Most importantly for me, assist in making me focus on matters at hand & in helping me to remain calm in what at times was a very stressful situation.

» [read all reviews](#)



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