

Top 10 Reasons To Mediate

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, financial advisors and appraisers. Attorneys 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. In mediation, both parties select and split the cost of one unbiased mediator and equally unbiased accountants, appraisers, etc. to facilitate a long-term agreement between themselves that makes the most of financial resources for the future.

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 separation 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.

Reason 4

Easier On You -

The break down of the family is emotionally debilitating. Litigation encourages both parties to act as enemies, making the loss of relationship even more traumatic. Independent, unbiased mediators instead foster a collaborative relationship that allows both parties to consider their own needs, each others' future needs and the children's

needs in devising a plan that makes sense for everyone without breaking the bank, or further damaging emotional health.

Reason 5

Manage Emotions -

Mediators believe that four stages of emotions are experienced during broken relationships: 1) acquaintance; 2) intimacy; 3) loss of intimacy; and 4) business-like relationship. Attorneys will leave you at loss of intimacy and encourage adversarial behavior. Mediators can assist in taking you to a business-like relationship that will foster healing.

Reason 6

Easier On The Children -

Litigation is adversarial and creates “sides” to be taken. Children can get caught in the crossfire. There is no need to place your family in a gladiator arena. Transition into this new phase of life as peacefully as possible by allowing a professional mediator to assist you in devising a long-term “parenting plan”, rather than having custody arrangements dictated by a court. Demonstrate to your children that even though Mom and Dad will be living separately, they will still be Mom and Dad, and will both continue to take an active role in continuing to parent and protect them.

Reason 7

Confidentiality -

Everything said and done in mediation sessions is completely confidential. In the event that not all issues are resolved in mediation and litigation becomes necessary, the details do not proceed to the courtroom. Litigation is public record. Keep your life private.

Reason 8

Legal Information -

Mediators do not have to be attorneys. Why? Because mediation does not center around legal rights and entitlements. Although family mediators have been rigorously trained and certified by their state’s Supreme Court, and possess significant knowledge about family law in their jurisdictions, they do not focus on the law. Mediators, rather, focus on the best interests of both parties to the dispute.

Reason 9

You Can Still Go To Court -

Mediation is a tool to peacefully resolve issues. Not all issues, however, may be resolved in mediation... and that’s OK. In mediation, the focus is not on individual legal

rights. The focus is on everyone's best interests. Once you and your spouse make the important decisions about your collective best interests, they will be presented to a judge. You will only need to be in court to let the judge know you both agree on the agreement you have created. If you are only concerned about what your legal rights are, then mediation is not for you. However, you will need to surrender your rights to control your own future to attorneys and judges.

Reason 10

Paperwork -

Your professional, independent mediator will assist you in completing all required paperwork for filing with the court during mediation. Expensive attorneys are not necessary to complete paperwork!