

DIVORCE OPTIONS COMPARISON

Considerations	Mediation	Collaboration	Litigation
Process is controlled by >	You and your spouse decide the schedule, issues and decisions	You and your spouse control the process, and make final decisions	Judge controls and makes final decisions
Level of Adversity >	You and your spouse mutually agree on respect and openness to resolve your issues	You and your spouse mutually agree on respect and openness to resolve your issues	Litigation is based on an adversarial system. The Judge resolves your issues
Cost Factor >	Much less than collaboration or litigation. Usually least expensive	Manageable cost, usually less expensive than litigation	Costs unpredictable and can escalate very fast
Time Requirement >	You and your spouse determine the time requirement	You and your spouse determine the time requirement	Judge sets schedule; crowded court docket adds to the delay
Lawyer Involvement >	No lawyers unless you want one; may want Marital Settlement Agreement review	Each spouse has a lawyer; they work with you for a mutual agreement	Each spouse has a lawyer fighting to win; someone losses
Privacy >	Private and confidential	Private and confidential	Dispute is public record; may have media attention
Communications >	Mediator educates and assists both spouses in effective communication; spouses communicate directly with help from mediator	Team of collaborative specialists assists both spouses in effective communication; spouses communicate directly with help from your team	Communications not facilitated by a process; you and spouse communicate through your lawyers
Voluntary or Mandatory >	Voluntary	Voluntary	Mandatory if no agreement