



WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation is a process in which parties to a dispute attempt to settle the issues between them with the assistance of a neutral third party - a mediator. Many courts require the parties in any family law litigation to participate in mediation before the final trial of their case. Some courts even require the parties to attend mediation before they can schedule any hearing in their case.

Mediation is a relatively informal process. While there are rules that all mediators are expected to follow, to maintain the confidentiality of the process and their own impartiality, the process itself varies from mediation to mediation. The mediator may choose to meet with both parties in a joint session or with each party separately or in both types of settings at different times during the process. The parties will ordinarily be accompanied by their attorneys, if they have one, but it is not required, although the party need to be comfortable expressing their positions and interests and making whatever decisions need to be made.

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