



## Family Mediation Center Step-by-Step Wisconsin Divorce Mediation

Mediation with a neutral lawyer-mediator is a low conflict/low cost way to get legal education, guidance, and drafting assistance. This will help you be certain you both make well-informed decisions and reach agreements that will last and be best for your family.

Here is a list of mediation steps:

1. Together, you choose to use mediation for your divorce or family case and jointly choose a mediator.
2. Mediation sessions can begin before, during, or after filing your legal action. For divorce, this means filing a Petition and Confidential Addendum.
3. The mediator will draft a Joint Petition for you both to sign and file it with the court for you.
4. There is a 120-day waiting period; you cannot get divorced sooner.
5. You will participate in 2-5 mediation sessions to reach agreement on all legal issues. In divorce, the main issues are property division and maintenance (spousal support); if you have children-legal custody, placement, child support and expenses.
6. Before considering agreements, you will work with the mediator to exchange all financial information and prepare a court-required Joint Financial Disclosure Statement listing all income, expenses, assets, and debts.
7. With the help of your mediator, you will consider options to reach agreements on all issues.
8. The mediator will draft a Marital Settlement Agreement addressing all legal issues for you to discuss, review, and finalize. The mediator will also draft additional documents, including the Judgment, necessary for your final hearing. The mediator will file all documents.
9. You both attend the final hearing to obtain court approval of your agreement and receive your judgment of divorce.
10. Thereafter, any necessary implementation work occurs, such as changing titles of homes, vehicles, and transferring retirement funds. The mediator can help with this as needed.

Mediation is a positive way to resolve your divorce or any other family law or post-judgment issue. The two of you can openly share information, obtain education, and discuss issues and options with expert assistance while retaining control of the outcome for your family.

For more information: [www.familymediationcenter.org](http://www.familymediationcenter.org)