



WHAT DIVORCE PROCESS DO YOU CHOOSE?

You have decided to divorce, now what? The process you choose will impact how your divorce proceeds as well as your family and financial outcomes. To make the best decision, you need professional education to be certain you understand all of your options.

Below is a brief comparison of the options of mediation and traditional divorce

	MEDIATION	LITIGATION/ TRADITIONAL NEGOTIATION
Cost	In your mutual control	Often emotionally and financially expensive
Effectiveness	You created agreement; more likely you'll comply	Court imposed or lawyer negotiated; too often returns to court
Time	Finalize soon after agreement is reached	Many months, possibly years if contested issues
Privacy	Confidential process	Public record of disputes
Control	You make all decisions and control the outcome	Court may decide the outcome
Communication	Direct between you with mediator guidance	Indirect via lawyers

Mediation is a voluntary process in which a neutral lawyer provides legal education, guidance, drafting and filing of documents to help couples reach agreements and navigate the court process. That is different than arbitration in which a third party is hired to make decisions (more like litigation).

Family Mediation Center process is designed to minimize cost and conflict. If you have children, FMC has child specialists who can help you focus on your children's well-being as

you separate and restructure your family. If you have complex or challenging personal or business financial issues, FMC has neutral financial experts who can assist.