

Why Mediate?

Mediation is not psychotherapy, marital counseling or legal representation. Mediators with backgrounds in law do not represent mediation clients during the mediation process, but rather serve as neutral facilitators of the decision-making process.



Through mediation the parties can:

- * Determine their own solution
- * Become empowered to present their concerns
- * Learn about the framework for their dispute
- * Minimize the expense of court proceedings
- * Reduce the emotional toll of conflict
- * Preserve on-going relationships
- * Emphasize the well-being of their children

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY



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THE LAW OFFICE OF ERIC ALLMENDINGER



- Divorce
- Allocation of Parental Rights
- Post-Decree
- Child Support
- Estate Planning
- Mediation

Ten Things to Keep in Mind.....

It's Business Not Personal

While the reasons for getting a divorce is personal, the actual divorce process is not. At the most basic level, a divorce is a way of equitably dividing up assets. The process can certainly be used for taking grinding an axe, if you are willing to pay the costs in attorney's fees, court costs, the patience of the judge, the estrangement of your soon to be former spouse, and emotional damage to the children. Try to be the bigger person. Be professional.

Be Honest

With yourself and your attorney. It's important to remember that marriages have few secrets. While you may think that what they don't know won't hurt you, ask yourself "What if they do know?" You are not doing yourself or your cause any favors by trying to sweep everything under the rug. Assume that your spouse knows and prepare for it just in case they do.

Don't Agree To Agree

Divorces are a difficult process and, understandably, most people want them to be over as quickly as possible. Let's say both parties agree to have joint decision making authority over educational decisions. What have they actually agreed to? Nothing. What they have essentially said is "Let's fight over this in another couple of years." Take the time now to make these decisions. It might be hard, but sooner is almost always better than latter.

Have Realistic Expectations

This goes for what you want out of the divorce and also for life after it. Right now there are two people paying the mortgage, the electric bill, the grocery store, and the list goes on and on. Obviously a divorce changes all that. Think about how you want your life to look after all the papers are signed and factor that into the negotiations. It's an opportunity to start fresh so take advantage of it!

Act in The Best Interest Of The Children

Whatever you may be feeling towards your spouse on whom you are about to serve divorce papers, chances are they still love your kids. And remember that you love your kids too! Before you run to the law firm of "This is mine – That's yours" take some time to sit down and think about what you want, what you want for your children, what your children want, and at the end of the day, what is best for them.

Get All of Your Financial Ducks in a Row

Know what you own and what you owe. The courts want to know exactly what your assets and liabilities are. If you hire an attorney, take the time to go through your records first and organize them. It will save you a lot of money on legal fees than paying your attorney or accountant to sort through all the files themselves.



Know Your End Game

Like most things in life a divorce is a negotiation. Decide early on what is important to you and for what reasons. The 65 inch high definition television might be very important to you, but if the only reason it is important is because you know your spouse wants it more, it shouldn't be at the top of your priority list.

Know When to Ask For Help

If you find yourself getting in over your head, ask for help. It can be in the form of a book, a website, even a friend that has gone through the process before. Remember, you don't have to do everything yourself. Remember, this goes for your life outside of the divorce as well.

Mediate Don't Litigate

If possible try to attempt mediation before leaving your case in the hand of a judge. Mediation is a way to keep control of your case while saving you money at the same time.

Hire the Right People

If you do hire an attorney make sure that it's the right one for you. Someone who will listen to what you have to say and guide you through the process.

