

Processes for Resolving Divorce Issues

Processes vary in terms of cost, time, client empowerment, protecting children and transformation of the family as marriage ends.

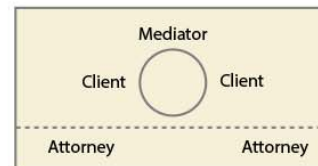
Collaborative Practice

- ❖ Each spouse hires a collaboratively trained attorney
- ❖ Team with other collaborative professionals
- ❖ May include divorce coach, financial and child specialist
- ❖ Separate meetings may be held with team professionals
- ❖ No court while process is in place
- ❖ Emphasis on dignity and respect
- ❖ Transparency and full disclosure required
- ❖ Settlement is the common focus



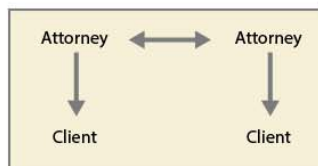
Mediation

- ❖ Mediator facilitates discussion as neutral
- ❖ Empowers clients to reach agreements
- ❖ Does not advocate for or advise either side
- ❖ Disclosure of financial information
- ❖ Assists clients in developing options for settlement
- ❖ Each client chooses when to consult with own attorney
- ❖ Use attorneys to secure legal documentation
- ❖ Attorneys may or may not be present during mediation



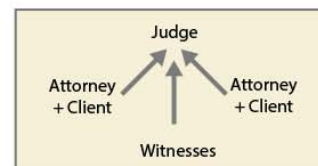
Attorney Settlement

- ❖ Spouses hire separate attorneys
- ❖ Attorneys involved may aggressively advocate
- ❖ Attorney speaks on behalf of the client
- ❖ Proposals exchanged by phone and/or by correspondence
- ❖ May involve a party who chooses not to have an attorney
- ❖ Disclosure is optional
- ❖ Litigation may accompany negotiation



Litigation

- ❖ High financial and psychological cost
- ❖ Spouse hires his/her own litigation counsel
- ❖ The court decides matters based on the law
- ❖ Interim issues decided in court
- ❖ Trial dates set for evidentiary hearings
- ❖ Formal discovery/Expert witnesses



Some additional options include Neutral Case Evaluation and Arbitration