

## DIVORCE OPTIONS

	<b>COLLABORATIVE LAW</b>	<b>COLLABORATIVE MEDIATION</b>	<b>MEDIATION</b>	<b>LITIGATION</b>
<b><i>Who Controls the Outcome</i></b>	You and your spouse control the outcome of the process with assistance of the professional team.	You and your spouse control the outcome of the process with assistance of the mediators and help with the Collaborative attorneys as needed.	Mediator assists you and your spouse in reaching an agreement.	Judge controls process and makes final decisions.
<b><i>Flexibility</i></b>	Ability to think outside of the box and fashion outcomes tailored to your family's best interests.	Ability to think outside of the box and fashion outcomes tailored to your family's best interests.	Ability to customize options and be flexible.	Limited as judges are required to follow specific rules which may not be ideal in every situation.
<b><i>Degree of Adversity</i></b>	Both contractually pledge mutual respect, full financial disclosure, and information sharing.	Both contractually pledge mutual respect, full financial disclosure, and information sharing.	It is hoped that both parties will be respectful and share information with each other.	Court process is based on an adversarial system.
<b><i>Use of Outside Experts</i></b>	Skilled professionals are present at the table to provide information and guidance to reach mutually beneficial solutions.	Skilled professionals are present at the table or available to provide information and guidance to reach mutually beneficial solutions.	Depends on experience and/or comfort level of the mediator to bring in outside experts.	Separate experts are hired to defend positions and find fault, often at great expense to each party.
<b><i>Impact on Children</i></b>	Minimized, as the needs of children remain central to decision making.	Minimized, as the needs of children remain central to decision making.	Minimized, as the needs of children remain central to decision making.	Often overlooked, children may be used as pawns in the legal proceedings.
<b><i>Involvement of Attorneys</i></b>	Your attorneys work toward a mutually created settlement to benefit both parties.	Your Collaborative attorneys are available as needed.	Mediator cannot advocate for either spouse or prepare legal documents. Clients should each have an attorney to discuss legal aspects that arise during sessions.	Arguments and conflicts often become heightened as attorneys fight to win, but someone loses.
<b><i>Facilitation of Communication</i></b>	Team of collaborative specialists educate and assist you and your spouse on how	Co-Mediators with Collaborative training educate and assist you and your spouse on how to effectively communicate with	Mediator educates and assists you and your spouse on how to effectively communicate	Communication between parties is discouraged and opportunities to express concerns are limited, indirect,

	to effectively communicate with each other.	each other.	with each other.	filtered and subject to delays.
<b>Privacy</b>	The process and discussion or negotiation details are kept private and confidential.	The process and discussion or negotiation details are kept private and confidential.	The process and discussion or negotiation details are kept private and confidential.	Dispute information becomes a matter of public record.
<b>Cost</b>	Costs are manageable, usually less expensive than litigation; team model is financially efficient in use of experts.	Costs are manageable, usually less expensive than Collaborative Law or litigation; co-mediator model is financially efficient.	Costs are manageable; typically provides the least amount of professional support.	Costs are unpredictable and can escalate rapidly including frequency of post-judgement litigation.
<b>Voluntary vs. Mandatory</b>	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary	Mandatory if no agreement.
<b>Timetable</b>	You and your spouse create the timetable with guidance from the team.	You and your spouse create the timetable with guidance from the co-mediators.	You and your spouse create the timetable.	Judge sets the timetable; often delays given crowded court calendars. Could take years for trial and appeals