What If We Don't Get Along?

The mediator will structure the sessions to promote success and help the parties communicate more openly.

"Given the costs of legal services, mediation provides an effective way to resolve many disputes that would otherwise further deplete both parties' financial resources…open, honest communication between husband and wife also provides some amount of closure at a very painful time. I wholeheartedly endorse this program…."

– Father of two

Is An Attorney Required?

While decisions reached in mediation are made by you, they should be informed decisions. You may seek legal counsel at any time during the mediation process. The mediator does not give legal advice. Attorneys do not usually attend the mediation sessions.



What Happens If Mediation is Successful?

If mediation results in an agreement, a Court hearing takes place to enter your agreement as a Court order.



"I have used mediation services twice and was so pleased to have an alternative way that was easy, not intimidating and did not require me to hire a lawyer."

– Mother of one

Court of Common Pleas
Division of Domestic Relations
Lake County, Ohio

Judge Colleen A. Falkowski

47 North Park Place
P.O. Box 490
Painesville, OH 44077

Phone: (440) 350-2708

www.lakecountyohio.gov/dr

Marie L. Umholtz, Director

Mediation
Make It Your Solution

A Program of the Lake County Domestic Relations Court



Judge Colleen A. Falkowski

Lake County Domestic Relations Court



Judge Colleen A. Falkowski

Lake County Domestic Relations Court

"I established the Lake County Domestic Relations Mediation Program to encourage families to resolve their own issues outside of the courtroom."

What Is Mediation?

Mediation is a process available to assist you in resolving issues through mutual agreement.

What is the Court Mediation Procedure?

- Both sides work with a trained, neutral third party to identify contested issues and find solutions in a non-adversarial way, avoiding a Court trial.
- The mediator does not make decisions for you but helps you communicate more openly and consider alternatives.
- The mediator helps with problem solving and directs discussions towards resolution.
- Mediation varies in length depending on the issues. The sessions are about two hours long; the average mediation involves two or three sessions.
- It is provided at no charge.

Why Try Mediation?

Mediation is a process in which the unique needs of parties in a divorce can be addressed. Even when there is anger and hurt, it is possible for you to negotiate an agreement that benefits everyone in the long run.



Benefits of Mediation

Mediation helps resolve differences in a positive way and:

- Allows you to speak for yourself and make your own decisions.
- Lets you resolve issues outside of the courtroom and protect your privacy.
- Is strictly confidential between the parties, giving you the opportunity to discuss differences and concerns openly.
- Permits you to create flexible solutions and helps in building a lasting agreement.
- May save you time and money.

How Can I Request Mediation?

If you have a pending Court case you may request mediation services by filing a motion or you may be ordered to mediation by the Judge or Magistrate.

If you have been divorced in Lake County and are experiencing difficulties resolving issues regarding your parental rights you may request Voluntary Mediation Services.

For additional information contact the Lake County Domestic Relations Court Mediation Department at 440-350-2708 or go to: www.lakecountyohio.gov/dr.



"The Lake County Domestic Relations Mediation Program was a cost effective alternative to court. My ex-wife and I were able to settle our dispute with the mediator's help in a timely and efficient manner. Understanding children create a lifelong association with your ex spouse, mediation is the best alternative to maintain a working relationship."

– Father of three