
Don't Let Divorce Destroy You

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After your divorce do you want to be able to attend important events in your children's lives with your former spouse without fear of the consternation and drama the two of you being in the same room might cause? Do you want to be able to work with your former spouse to provide guidance and support for your children without concern about what is being said about you behind your back? Do you want to come to a resolution of your financial issues that will provide both you and your spouse the best opportunity to move into the future without constant concern about how you will support yourself and your children?

If so, resolving your divorce case through one of many alternatives to litigation might be right for you. The Center for Principled Family Advocacy ("Center") is a group of attorneys, and financial and mental health professionals, who actively support and engage in a number of processes besides litigation, to resolve family law issues. These processes are Mediation, Collaboration, Principled Negotiation, Facilitated Negotiation and Arbitration.

In Mediation the two parties work with a mediator who helps them navigate their way toward an acceptable resolution of their issues crafted by the parties. During this process each party can also have an attorney to advise them of their rights and, at times, be present during mediation sessions.

Collaboration involves a series of four-way meetings during which the two parties and their respective attorneys work towards a win-win resolution of the case without a mediator. In Collaboration, the parties' attorneys agree to withdraw from the case if a settlement is not reached and litigation becomes necessary.

Principled Negotiation is also a process in which the parties and their respective counsel participate. It also involves a series of settlement conferences with parties and counsel or between counsel in a structured setting with agreed upon time frames and ground rules. The Principled Negotiation process does not require the parties' attorneys to withdraw in the event that the case is not settled.

Facilitated Negotiation is similar to Principled Negotiation but the negotiations are overseen, or facilitated, by a neutral third party. The third party assists by resolving certain issues, if necessary, and keeping the process moving toward an amicable resolution.

Arbitration provides a process by which a neutral person or panel of more than one person can make a decision for the parties, if they are unable to resolve their own issues by agreement. Evidence is presented to the arbitrator in a less time-consuming and more cost-effective manner than at a trial before the Court. The arbitrator then renders a decision as to how the parties' issues should be resolved. The parties can agree that the arbitrator's decision will be binding or non-binding.

Of course, the Center's attorneys recognize that sometimes litigation is necessary to fully resolve parties' disputes. They are ready, willing, and able to provide that service in those cases where a party and counsel agree it is the best alternative.

While your marriage may be over, your life doesn't need to be. For more information on the Center and its members, visit its website at www.famad.com or contact one of our family law attorneys.

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