

Comparison of Divorce Process

	No professionals	Collaborative	Mediation	Litigation
How adversarial is this process?	Depends on the divorcing parties <input type="checkbox"/>	Not very <input type="checkbox"/>	Can be <input type="checkbox"/>	Very combative <input type="checkbox"/>
Who is involved?	Divorcing parties only <input type="checkbox"/>	Divorcing parties, collaborative attorneys, mental health, and financial team <input type="checkbox"/>	Divorcing parties, mediator (attorneys may or may not be involved) <input type="checkbox"/>	Divorcing parties, attorneys, judge, and other experts as deemed necessary <input type="checkbox"/>
What is the timetable?	Divorcing parties decide <input type="checkbox"/>	Team decides <input type="checkbox"/>	Mediator facilitates as scheduled by parties / attorneys if retained <input type="checkbox"/>	Court decides, frequent delays <input type="checkbox"/>
What is the cost?	Filing fee (approximately \$500) <input type="checkbox"/>	Pay professional fees and court fees, costs are discussed upfront <input type="checkbox"/>	Pay mediator, court fees, and attorneys if retained <input type="checkbox"/>	Pay attorneys, experts, court fees, and any other costs associated – costs unlimited <input type="checkbox"/>
What is the impact on kids?	Not a supportive process for kids <input type="checkbox"/>	Professionals support kids <input type="checkbox"/>	Limited options for kids <input type="checkbox"/>	Judge orders options for kids <input type="checkbox"/>
Is there privacy for the process and agreement?	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No, everything is public record <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the court involved?	No, just initial filing (available at courthouse) and final hearing <input type="checkbox"/>	No, just initial filing and final hearing <input type="checkbox"/>	No, just initial filing and final hearing <input type="checkbox"/>	Heavily involved – hearings and trial <input type="checkbox"/>
Who makes the decisions?	Divorcing parties <input type="checkbox"/>	Team effort <input type="checkbox"/>	Mediator facilitates; parties /attorneys make decisions <input type="checkbox"/>	Judge <input type="checkbox"/>
What is the communication like?	Divorcing parties communicate between themselves <input type="checkbox"/>	Communication is done within the team of professionals <input type="checkbox"/>	Divorcing parties and attorneys if retained communicate with the mediator <input type="checkbox"/>	Communication is done through attorneys, filings, hearings, and court appearances <input type="checkbox"/>
Are there creative solutions?	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, but limited <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Reasons to choose.	Best if there is little to no property, debt, and no kids; least expensive <input type="checkbox"/>	Best if there is property, kids, business, and/or conflict <input type="checkbox"/>	Best if there are only a few items of dispute <input type="checkbox"/>	Best if parties won't agree on any other process <input type="checkbox"/>
Totals				