MEDIATION · OVERVIEW

Agreement, *without the courtroom.*

For families seeking a more collaborative process, we help resolve divorce, separation and parenting matters through mediation instead of litigation, across New York State, in person or by secure video.

Our goal is simple: help you reach a fair, durable agreement that you both understand and can live with, at a fraction of the cost, time and conflict of a contested court case. **You stay in control** of the decisions that shape your family's future, rather than handing them to a judge.

Mediation is a voluntary, confidential process in which a neutral mediator helps both parties negotiate their own agreement. The mediator does not take sides, does not represent either party and does not impose a decision. Instead, we guide the conversation, organize the financial information, explain the issues New York law asks you to address, and help you weigh your options.

WHY COUPLES CHOOSE IT

Six reasons *to mediate.*

I

Less expensive

One neutral professional and shared sessions typically cost far less than two attorneys litigating against each other in court for many months.

II

Faster

Sessions are scheduled around your calendar, not a crowded court docket.

III

Private

Discussions happen in a confidential setting rather than in open court.

IV

Better for children

Parents who build their own plan together tend to co-parent more effectively afterward.

V

Tailored

You can craft solutions that fit your family, beyond the standard outcomes a court might order.

VI

Respectful

The process lowers conflict and preserves the relationship you will still need, especially as parents.

IN PERSON

333 Park Avenue South, Suite 3A, Manhattan

BY SECURE VIDEO

Anywhere in New York State

William F. Guilford, Jr. is a member of the Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York. As mediator, he is neutral and does not represent either party; each person is encouraged to consult their own attorney before signing an agreement.

MATTERS WE MEDIATE

The full range of a *New York family transition.*

I. Divorce & legal separation

Including uncontested divorces under New York's no-fault ground: an irretrievable breakdown of the marriage for at least six months.

II. Custody & parenting plans

Decision-making, parenting schedules, holidays, school and relocation questions.

III. Child support

Using New York's Child Support Standards Act as the framework, plus add-ons such as child care, health insurance, unreimbursed medical costs and education.

IV. Spousal maintenance

Applying New York's maintenance guidelines and discussing whether, how much and for how long.

V. Marital property & debt

Homes, retirement accounts, businesses, investments and liabilities under New York's equitable distribution rules, including separate-property claims.

VI. Prenuptial & postnuptial agreements

Terms agreed before or during the marriage, worked out together.

VII. Post-judgment modifications

Updating custody, parenting time or support after circumstances change.

THE PROCESS

How mediation *works.*

I

Introductory meeting

Both parties meet the mediator, learn how the process works, and decide whether to proceed.

II

Sessions

Joint sessions, in person or by secure video, work through each issue: parenting, support, property and debts. Financial information is gathered and organized along the way.

III

Written agreement

Agreed terms are set down in writing for each party to review, ideally with their own counsel.

Start with *one conversation.*

To schedule a consultation, contact the office. Video sessions are available.

CALL
(212) 653-0635

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HOURS
Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
English & Spanish

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