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DOMESTIC RELATIONS  
MEDIATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS

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## What Is Mediation / How Can Mediation Help Me?

Mediation is a process where the spouses/ parents sit down with a neutral third party to discuss the situation and potential solutions. The mediator does not make decisions or provide legal advice. Rather, the mediator helps the parties communicate about possible ways to settle their case without going to trial before a Judge or Magistrate.

Mediation has many benefits, including: letting the people who know the case best (you and the other party) make decisions about outcome and providing a more private setting for discussion than courtrooms. Moreover, mediation is often-times quicker and more cost-efficient than fully litigating a case.

## What Is the Process?

The mediator will call each party before the first session to gather initial information and identify the primary areas of dispute.

At the first mediation session, the mediator will explain the process and ground rules. The mediator will then

## How Much Does Mediation Cost?

Domestic mediations are billed at \$200 per hour.

The mediator bills for the time spent in mediation session(s) as well as the time spent conversing with the parties outside session and time spent reviewing materials to prepare for the mediation sessions.

Typically, the parties split the mediation costs evenly, which means that each party pays \$100 per hour.

Mediation sessions usually last approximately two hours.

In Domestic Relations, it is common that parties require more than one mediation session to resolve all the issues in the case.



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guide the conversation, directing it toward discussion of possible solutions.

The way this conversation happens can vary. Sometimes there is discussion with everyone in the same room together. Sometimes the mediator may separate the parties into separate conference rooms to communicate more privately.

Domestic situations frequently require more than one mediation session. It is common for parties to discuss parenting issues in one mediation session and financial issues during another.

If the mediation is successful, the mediator will document your agreement in writing. You will have an opportunity to review the agreement with your attorney. Once the agreement is finalized, you will need to attend a court hearing to ask the Court to adopt your agreement as a Court Order.

## How Do I Get Started?

The first step is that both parties must agree to mediate. Once the parties have signed and submitted the Atlas Agreement to Mediate and the initial retainer, the mediator will contact the parties to gather some information and schedule the first session. The mediator will inform you and the other party what information is needed to make the best use of the mediation session time.

## Where Will Mediation Take Place?

Mediation can take place at the Atlas office—in downtown Canton—or at any other mutually agreeable location. If you choose to mediate at the Atlas office, you can park in the Onesto garage across the street and Atlas will provide parking validation.

