



EQUITABLE DIVORCE SOLUTIONS, LLC

	Mediation	Collaborative Divorce	Litigation
Who Controls the Process?	You and your spouse control the process and make final decisions	You and your spouse control the process and make final decisions	Attorneys control the process and a Judge makes final decisions if there is no agreement between the parties
Degree of Adversity	You and your spouse pledge mutual respect and openness	You and your spouse pledge mutual respect and openness	Court process is based on an adversarial system
Cost	Usually the least expensive model, but provides the least amount of professional support	Costs are manageable, usually less expensive than litigation; team model is financially efficient in the use of experts	Costs are unpredictable and can escalate rapidly including frequency of post-judgment litigation
Timetable	You and your spouse create the timetable	You and your spouse create the timetable	A Judge sets the timetable; there are often delays given crowded court calendars
Use of Outside Experts	Jointly retained specialists provide information and guidance helping you and your spouse to develop informed, mutually beneficial solutions	Jointly retained specialists provide information and guidance helping you and your spouse to develop informed, mutually beneficial solutions	Separate experts are hired to support the litigants' positions, often at great expense to each
Attorney Involvement	Even if the mediator is an attorney, he or she cannot advocate for either party. Hiring outside attorneys as review counsel is generally recommended	You each retain attorneys who assist you in working toward a mutually created settlement	Attorneys are involved in every aspect of the process
Privacy	The process, discussions and negotiation details are kept private	The process, discussions and negotiation details are kept private	Dispute becomes a matter of public record and, sometimes, media attention
Facilitation of Communication	The skill of the mediator will determine how well communication is facilitated between you and your spouse	The team of collaborative specialists educate and assist you and your spouse on how to effectively communicate with each other	No process designed to facilitate communication
Voluntary vs. Mandatory	Voluntary – process is outside of the court	Voluntary – process is outside of the court	Mandatory if no agreement
Lines of Communication	You and your spouse communicate directly with the assistance of the mediator	You and your spouse communicate directly with assistance from the members of your team	You and your spouse negotiate through your attorneys