

Summary of Benefits of Divorce Mediation

- Reduces conflict
- Increases cooperative parenting
- Parents continue to stay involved in the lives of their children
- Supports the needs of children and parents
- Reduces stress during a time of family transition
- Parents retain their decision making abilities
- Affordable



Big Brothers Big Sisters
Center For Counseling
Child Life & Family Education
Children's Advocacy Center
Senior Services Center

Family Service Agency
14 Health Services Drive
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
Ph: 815.758.8616
Fx: 815.758.7569
www.RealSolutionsToday.org
info@RealSolutionsToday.org



Family Service Agency is a United Way agency.

Divorce Mediation

An alternative for resolving the conflicts of divorce for you and your children.



Family Service Agency's Divorce Mediation

Even under the best of circumstances, divorce is difficult. Details like:


where will the children live?

when do I get to spend time with them?

who will pay for their education?

are complex and often painful to resolve.

Standard divorce proceedings can take years to complete, and all too often the final agreement doesn't represent the best interests of all individuals in a family.



Is there a better way?

Family Service Agency's divorce mediation program offers an alternative to the standard method of divorce. Rather than pitting couples in conflict against each other, our trained mediators work to develop a cooperative spirit between two divorcing partners so they can reach mutual agreement on the terms of their divorce. Instead of focusing on the past and who holds blame for the ending of the marriage, our mediators help couples look to the future and consider creative ways to reshape their family.

How does the mediation process work?

Mediators serve as an impartial third party who guide couples through the entire decision-making process of divorce. Clients provide relevant information about their lifestyle and individual needs to one of our trained mediators. Together with the mediator, spouses discuss and determine the outcome of such issues as custody and parenting arrangements, and the division of property, assets and debt. By mutually agreeing on the details of the divorce, couples are better able to begin their new lives on positive terms, both individually and as a redefined family.

Does divorce mediation protect my children's best interests?

Divorce can have a profound impact on the physical, emotional, and social well-being of children. Sadly, in standard divorce proceedings, children often get caught in a crossfire of ill will between divorcing partners. The primary goal in mediation is to insure that children's needs—present and future—are carefully considered in the terms of the divorce.

How do I know if my best legal interests are being served?

Our mediators are fully trained by the Divorce Mediation Institute. When legal

questions arise, couples are asked to consult their attorneys. Mediators provide the attorney with a written summary of the couple's agreement to be used as the basis of their divorce.

How long does it take to work out a divorce agreement with a mediator, and what will it cost?

Typically, a divorce agreement worked out with the aid of a mediator will take less time to process than an agreement resolved through the court. The fee for mediation is set at an hourly rate reflecting the professional service provided. The total time and cost involved in mediation will vary from family to family. Factors influencing this time frame include the number of parenting issues needing to be resolved and the willingness of parents to work towards agreements.

What if I need help coping after my divorce?

Family Service Agency offers a full range of counseling services and programs to aid families in transition. A mediator can refer clients to one of our many skilled therapists to help them and their children deal with the emotional effects of the divorce.