



## Divorce Mediation vs. Collaborative Divorce

Feature	Divorce Mediation	Collaborative Divorce
Professional Involvement	Couples meet with a <b>neutral third-party mediator</b> who facilitates discussions.	Each spouse has their <b>own attorney</b> , and often a team including financial experts, mental health professionals, and child specialists.
Legal Representation	Optional. Parties may consult attorneys outside of sessions.	<b>Mandatory.</b> Each party must have a collaboratively trained attorney.
Cost	Generally <b>less expensive</b> due to fewer professionals involved.	Typically <b>more costly</b> due to multiple professionals and longer sessions.
Timeframe	Often <b>faster</b> , typically resolved in 3–6 months.	May take <b>longer</b> due to structured team meetings and complex negotiations.
Control & Flexibility	Offers <b>more flexibility</b> and control over the pace and structure.	More structured, with less flexibility due to team coordination
Confidentiality	Private and confidential.	Also private, with all parties agreeing not to litigate.
Outcome if Process Fails	Seek Collaboration or a Litigation Attorney	If collaboration fails, <b>both attorneys must withdraw</b> , and new ones must be hired for litigation
Best For	Couples who can communicate and compromise with minimal legal intervention.	Couples with <b>complex financial or custody issues</b> who want legal support but wish to avoid court.



### Summary

- **Mediation** is ideal for couples seeking a **cost-effective, flexible, and cooperative** process with minimal legal involvement.

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