



Principles of Mediation

1. Nature of Mediation

The mediation process helps to work through issues related to a conflict in a constructive way, ultimately learn how to resolve their conflict and take ownership of the agreement that is reached to rebuild their relationship. The mediator assists parties to reach an agreement in a collaborative, consensual and informed manner. The mediator has no power to decide disputed issues for the parties. Mediation is not a substitute for independent legal advice. The mediator's objective is to facilitate the parties themselves reaching their most constructive and fairest agreement. The mediator will not render therapy within the mediation.

2. Scope of Mediation

It is for the parties, with the mediator's concurrence, to determine the scope of the mediation and this will be accomplished early in the mediation process.

3. Mediation Is Voluntary

Mediation is conducted in good faith, to complete their mediation by an agreement. However, any party may withdraw from or suspend the mediation at any time, for any reason.

The mediator may suspend or terminate the mediation if s/he feels that the mediation will lead to an unjust or unreasonable result, if the mediator feels that an impasse has been reached, or if the mediator determines that s/he can no longer effectively perform his/her facilitative role.

4. Absolute Confidentiality

Mediation will be strictly confidential. Mediation discussions, written and oral communications, agreements shall not be admissible in any court proceeding. The mediator cannot be called to testify concerning the mediation or to provide any materials from the mediation in any court proceeding between the parties. The mediator has an ethical responsibility to break confidentiality if s/he suspects another person may be in danger of harm.

5. Full Disclosure

Each party agrees to fully and honestly disclose all relevant information and writings as requested by the mediator.

6. Mediator Impartiality

The mediator must remain impartial throughout and after the mediation process. Thus, the mediator shall not champion the interests of any party over another. As well as the joint discussion, the mediator may communicate separately with a participant, in which case such "caucus" shall be confidential between the mediator and the participant unless they agree otherwise.