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INFO SESSION

- Voluntary session
- Determine if it's the right route for you

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INFO PACKAGE

- FAQs & costs info

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INDIVIDUAL PRE-MEDIATION SESSIONS

- Required
- Consents, intake form, questionnaire completion

4

JOINT MEDIATION SESSIONS

- Parenting, Property and Support, as applicable

5

REVIEW DRAFT SEPARATION AGREEMENT

6

FINALIZE

- Independent legal advice & execution



What can we expect to pay for mediation?

The average mediation process, without any complex and/or emotionally charged issues, costs \$2,250 to \$4,500 split between the couple. But court-based divorces can average \$24,000 to \$90,000 or more per couple. Our model helps our clients work smarter and save money.

Every relationship and every mediation is unique so there is no one-size fits all fee or estimate that can be applied to our mediation process. We review each case and determine the best process for you. We will always provide you with the proper expertise to bring you to a fair, equitable and compassionate agreement. And, of course, we are committed to bringing you the most cost and time effective mediation that your unique set of circumstances presents.

The following fees can be anticipated for your unique circumstances and mediation. Please note that these fees do not include GST.



You agree on mostly everything

Estimated costs:

\$2,250 to \$3,150 total (\$1,260 to \$1,575 each)
7.5 to 10.5 hours at \$300/hour (\$150 each party)

Estimated process length:

Intake: 45 minutes each | 1.5 hours
Mediation: 2 to 4 hours
Drafting of separation agreement: 3 to 4 hours
Review of separation agreement: 1 hour



You haven't agreed on everything but it's mostly amicable and not too complicated

Estimated costs:

\$3,750 to \$4,650 total cost (\$1,875 to \$2,325 each)
12.5 to 15.5 hours at \$300/hour (\$150 each party)

Estimated process length:

Intake: 45 minutes each | 1.5 hours
Mediation: 6 to 8 hours
Drafting of separation agreement: 4 to 5 hours
Review of separation agreement: 1 hour



If you haven't agreed on everything (or anything) and it's getting complicated or adversarial

Estimated costs:

Up to \$6,000 total (up to \$3,000 each)
Up to 20 hours at \$300/hour (\$150 each)

Estimated process length:

Intake: 1 hour each | 2 hours
Mediation: up to 12 hours
Drafting of separation agreement: 5 hours
Review of separation agreement: 1 hour

These estimates are just that, *estimates* of the time and money involved. We charge on an hourly basis for your mediation and will always keep you apprised of the time spent. There are no extra or hidden fees included in your mediation and we don't charge for administrative emails or phone calls.



Are services in person or virtual?

We have both in-person and virtual options.



Is mediation the same as couple's counseling?

No. Couples counselling focuses on solutions to preserve the romantic or marital relationship. Mediation focuses on creating suitable arrangements for the entire family after separation. We can refer you to additional services for support to assist you through this process.



How long does mediation take?

This is highly dependent on your flexibility and the number of issues that need to be mediated, but as a general rule, you can expect to have between 2-6 meetings over a period of 1-6 months



When can I apply for a divorce?

The law states that you can apply for a divorce 1-year after date of separation. A Separation Agreement will outline what happens to your assets, your incomes and your children during the in-between stages of separation and divorce.



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How much does mediation cost?

The average mediation process, without any complex and/or emotionally charged issues, costs \$2,250 to \$4,500 split between the couple. But court-based divorces can average \$24,000 to \$90,000 or more per couple.

Our model helps our clients work smarter and save money. Visit our [Process](#) page for an estimate of what your mediation might cost.



Do my former partner and I come together or separately to mediation?

For most of your meetings, all of us will be together, either in person or via a video call. However, your first session will be done separately so that we can get a sense of your individual needs and perspectives.



My partner doesn't want to attend mediation. Can I force them to come?

Unfortunately, no. Mediation is a voluntary process and you cannot force the other person to mediate. You can, however, encourage a review of the [Where to Start](#) page.



Can my lawyer attend mediation with me?

This is entirely up to you. I encourage clients to have as much or as little contact with their lawyer as they need throughout the mediation process in order to feel comfortable with the decisions they are making. If you feel more comfortable bringing a lawyer into the mediation process, you are welcome to do so. Should you choose to have a lawyer present during the mediation process, the other party will also likely want a lawyer present, which will considerably increase the cost of the process as you will each be paying for your lawyer's time in addition to the cost of mediation. Having said that, the cost is still considerably less than the cost of litigation and this is certainly an option.



We agree on everything; do I need a lawyer?

Even if you are able to agree on everything in mediation without engaging a lawyer, should you want your Separation Agreement made into a legally binding document, you will need to see a lawyer to obtain a certificate of independent legal advice. I can draft the Separation Agreement on your behalf, but without a certificate of independent legal advice, it will not be legally binding. Whether you need a formal separation agreement or not is dependent on your specific situation, and I'd be happy to discuss further with you.



We agree on everything; do we need mediation?

Many people are surprised at the amount of detail required for a comprehensive Separation Agreement. Often clients will attend mediation with an 'idea' about how they would like to proceed, or even the bare bones of an Agreement to help move the process along. Mediation ensures that you are on the same page about details that you may not have considered. The best way to avoid disagreements in the future is to have a conversation about future expectations in the present.



Do I still need a lawyer if I use mediation?

Some parties find it helpful to have independent legal advice at some point during the process, and it is required at signing if you want your separation agreement to be legally binding. Your lawyers role is to ensure that you are clear on your rights and obligations, and how the law will affect your issues. However, by using mediation, the amount that the two of you will spend on your lawyers, plus the cost of mediation, will be a fraction of what it would cost to use a court-based process.



What if I can't get to you?

Our office is centrally located with free on site parking and we offer convenient daytime, evening and weekend appointments. We have a secure platform to facilitate virtual meetings, and are also open to meeting in public locations such as coffee shops by request.



I am in court; can I still enter mediation?

Mediation can be entered into at any stage – even if your case is already in court. Many separating couples choose mediation as a first step, while others choose it as result of their dissatisfaction and unaffordability with litigation and the adversarial process.



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When is mediation not recommended?

If there are issues of power imbalance or domestic abuse, your case could still be mediated. We always screen partners first, to ensure that both can work effectively and safely in a mediation. If you have any concerns, don't hesitate to check with one of us about whether or not your issues can be mediated.



Why is court so expensive in comparison?

Family court-based divorces cost on average between \$24,000 to \$90,000 or more per couple (\$12,000 to \$45,000 each) and last a minimum of 22 months.

Most people do not realize that a family lawyer can only tell you what you “might” be entitled to if you can win in court. They cannot possibly tell you if you will win, how long it could take or how much it will cost. Going to court is gambling with your family's financial assets since you have no control over what will happen!

Court is slow. There are at least 9 steps before you can get to your trial and that is only if things go “smoothly”. Before you can even see a Judge for your first court date there are multiple steps involving filing applications and responses between the parties.



What if I don't want to share certain information during mediation?

There is a provision within the process for what is called a “caucus.” This is where you can ask the mediator to step out with you in privacy and in a confidential manner raise issues with him/her.



Can you mediate without financial disclosure?

One of the most challenging aspects in family law surrounds the whole issue of financial disclosure. If the issues you face are not financial, then there is no problem. However, if they are, you will be faced with a very difficult task of resolving any financial matters.



Can you draft a Separation Agreement without financial disclosure?

If your matter includes financial issues, a Separation Agreement can certainly be entered into, but the law provides that in order for an agreement to be valid and not subject to being set aside in future, there must be full and frank disclosure provided by both parties.



Can things discussed in mediation be used in court?

Most mediations are “closed”, or described as “without prejudice” or simply, “confidential”. That means that everything you say (with certain limited exceptions) can't be used by you, your ex or the mediator in court, though the terms of any final, binding settlement you reach can be disclosed.

We always start by introducing a mediation agreement between you and your ex and our firm, so that everyone understands the ground rules and expectations.