

**South Shore Divorce Mediation Services, LLC**  
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**DIVORCE MEDIATION INTRODUCTION**

**GOALS:**

- To discuss all issues between you and to see if you can find an arrangement that is mutually acceptable
- If so, to put the agreement in writing
- To create a durable agreement that considers all possible issues
- To create an agreement the Court will allow

**DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS**

- Work together to find mutually agreeable solutions
- Solutions must come from you
- You control outcome
- Voluntary process
- Important you are willing to search for solutions

**MEDIATOR'S ROLE**

- Listen, not to judge, not to decide who is right and who is wrong
- May not give legal advice
- You are encouraged to consult with other professionals, including attorneys
- Will help you reach a solution that is acceptable to both of you
- Will prepare separation agreement (or memorandum of understanding)
- If parties do not have their separate attorneys SSDMS will also prepare Joint Petition for Divorce, Affidavit in Support of Joint Petition, Certificate of Absolute Divorce, Affidavit Disclosing Care or Custody Proceedings and Request for Uncontested Trial
- Will decide when mediation fails to be right venue
- May meet with parties separately at parties' request

## **AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT, NUMBER OF SESSIONS, COST**

- Sessions are usually 2 hours
- Divorce mediation typically takes 2 to 5 sessions
- Cost is \$200.00 per hour, to be split equally between parties
- Payment to be made at the conclusion of each session
- Payment for separation agreement, once all issues have been resolved, to be made prior to drafting

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

- Everything discussed in mediation is confidential, including all communication between sessions

## **IMPORTANCE OF AND ACCEPTANCE OF FULL DISCLOSURE**

- Must disclose in good faith to each other, all information, including financial information, that may relate to your discussions

## **NOTES**

- Mediator will take notes to organize thoughts and will later use when drafting final agreement
- All notes will be destroyed 30 days following execution of the final agreement

## **GROUND RULES**

- Must be respectful and allow one another ample opportunity to speak
- Additional ground rules may be set by parties