

# Collaborative Divorce vs. Mediation

Collaborative divorce and mediation are both popular alternatives to a litigated divorce. While both methods aim to resolve disputes out of court, they have distinct differences.

## COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE

Involves a team of professionals, including attorneys, a financial advisor, and a mental health professional.

### Professional Involvement

Each spouse has their own attorney present throughout the process.

### Legal Representation

More structured, with formal meetings and a clear process.

### Structure

Offers comprehensive support, addressing legal, financial, and emotional aspects of divorce.

### Support

Requires a formal agreement to resolve issues without going to court. If the process fails, attorneys must withdraw.

### Commitment

Often more expensive than mediation due to the involvement of multiple professionals.

### Cost

Well-suited for complex cases with significant assets or challenging custody issues.

### Complexity

Decisions are made through consensus-building among the couple and their team of professionals.

### Decisions

## MEDIATION

Typically involves a single neutral mediator. Attorneys may or may not be present.

Spouses often attend without attorneys, though they may consult lawyers between sessions.

Can be more flexible and informal, with the mediator guiding the discussion.

Primarily focuses on facilitating agreement between spouses, with less emphasis on emotional or financial planning support.

Generally allows more flexibility to leave the process and pursue litigation if needed.

Generally less expensive than collaborative divorce, especially if attorneys are not present.

Often effective for less complex cases or when spouses are already close to agreement.

The mediator facilitates discussion and helps the couple reach their own decisions.