

Two decades of research have shown that children survive separation and divorce relatively well if their parents take the steps necessary to minimize displays of conflict and the children are encouraged to maintain good relationships with both parents.

What Does it Cost?

ACCORD's divorce mediation program is cost effective. There is an initial intake fee of \$50 per person. The hourly mediation fee is determined on a sliding fee based on the combined income of both parties.

Payment is due at the end of each session. At the conclusion of the mediation process there is a preparation fee of \$120 per person for the Memorandum of Understanding.



The Mission

ACCORD promotes peaceful alternatives to conflict through mediation and other dispute resolution services, training, and advocacy.

Through the service of trained volunteers, ACCORD seeks to:

- Provide individuals, families, and organizations with constructive ways to resolve conflict
- Promote safe and stable living environments for children at risk of abuse and neglect
- Present youth with decision-making skills and alternatives to violence
- Broaden community understanding and acceptance of alternative dispute resolution

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Accord Divorce Mediation

Helping separating and divorcing couples make decisions in a cooperative way.



Phone (607) 724-5153
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What is Divorce Mediation?

It is a process where couples talk about issues in the presence of a neutral third party with the goal of resolving concerns and documenting areas of agreement. Instead of fighting or going to court, couples seek to find solutions acceptable to both sides.



How Does Mediation Work?

- Couples agree to meet with neutral divorce mediators to discuss and clarify issues.
- Mediators do not take sides or make decisions. They ensure that each individual's positions and views are heard and help couples reach a mutual agreement.
- When participants come to agreement, all settled concerns are written in a formal Memorandum of Understanding that can be used to prepare legal documents.

Mediation is a forward looking process designed to help couples communicate more clearly, explore options, and focus on the practical details of what they will need in their new lives.

Advantages of Divorce Mediation

- **Encourages communication and cooperation between couples**
- **Develops parenting plans for your children's well being**
- **Aids decision-making on child and/or spousal support**
- **Helps couples make decisions about financial matters**
- **Saves time and money in attorneys' fees**
- **Provides convenient, and confidential services that can be less adversarial**

Mediators have been trained in special aspects of divorce issues to assure all necessary topics are addressed. Mediators do not give legal advice; the individuals involved should consult with an attorney for answers to legal questions.

How Do We Start and What Can We Expect?

- Call ACCORD at 607-724-5153
- The Program Coordinator will schedule an appointment with you to learn about your particular circumstances and explain the process.
- If you agree to use mediation, trained mediators will be assigned to assist you in your discussions.
- Sessions will be scheduled at your convenience.
- Some divorces are more complex than others, but on average, the process requires six, two-hour sessions.
- You are encouraged to review decisions, as well as any draft documents, with your attorney to ensure your rights are protected.
- The mediation process will result in a Memorandum of Understanding.

