

## Collaborative Divorce vs. Mediation: A Comparison

<b>COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE</b>	<b>MEDIATION</b>
Begins immediately, often before anything is filed with the court	Typically occurs further along in the litigation process after significant amounts of money have been spent on discovery and hearings
Participants include: Each party and their attorney Financial expert (neutral) Mental health expert (neutral)	Participants include: Each party and their attorney Mediator (neutral)
All parties are in the same room together	Both parties and their attorneys are in separate rooms, and the mediator travels between the two
4-8 joint sessions (usually 2 hours each)	1 all-day session (minimum of 4 hours, but often 8-12 hours)
Both parties <i>must</i> be represented by their own attorney	Parties may represent themselves
No pressure to resolve the case in a set amount of time; process moves at a pace that is comfortable to all parties and sessions may be postponed if additional information is required	Typically completely in one day-long session; if not resolved, the case continues to litigation
Parties agree to full disclosure; neither party withholds important information	Typically, information is obtained through the discovery process in litigation
Non-adversarial	Often adversarial
If the parties are not able to resolve their issues, they may end the process and litigate their divorce	If the parties are not able to resolve their issues, they may end the process and litigate their divorce
Voluntary	Voluntary or ordered by the court before trial
Confidential	Confidential
Parties control the date and outcome	Parties control the date and outcome
Informal setting (outside of courtroom)	Informal setting (outside of courtroom)