***WHAT MEDIATION IS NOT***

*So put simply, divorce mediation is an alternative. You could each get your own attorneys and spend marital funds to pay both of their legal fees.  Not to mention the amount of time and effort you will expend with your spouse in meetings with two different attorneys (called "Four-Ways"), only to find out.... you can't agree on anything! The attorneys make money when you don't agree. When you don't agree,* ***your family*** *loses money, not just you.  Not to mention how it further destroys a relationship with your former spouse that is already deteriorated to the point where you feel like enemies.*

***WHAT MEDIATION IS***

*People believe if they use a mediator, they aren't going to get what they are entitled to, or the mediator is going to talk them into something that benefits their former spouse and not them. Not true.  Mediators, by definition and training, don't have to be attorneys, although they can be.  What a mediator is......is more important than what they're not.  They are someone who has seen what adversarial litigation does to families and wants that to change.  They are people that want to work with you and your former spouse to help you divorce in a way that can be amicable and benefit both parties and your children.  You can hire one mediator to represent both of you.*

*Suppose for example, you and your former spouse are arguing over the amount of alimony to be paid and after spending countless hours arguing about it with your respective attorneys, and spending thousands of dollars for meetings to try to negotiate that figure, you go to Court and a Judge decides the amount for you. What if that amount is something they can't afford? You feel* ***entitled*** *to it because your attorney told you that is what you "deserve".  Now your spouse can't afford their own place.  Maybe your children then don't want to visit your spouse because there is no room for them there. Your spouse can't "move on" because their whole world has been turned upside down.  You don't want this for them or your children, do you?*

*​****YOU COULD END UP MEDIATION ANYWAY!***

*Sometimes if you can't agree, a Judge may not make the decision, but will order the parties to mediate the issue.  Either a court-appointed mediator will be chosen for you or it will be strongly suggested that you hire your own.  This is where you could have started out in the first place:  with a mediator BEFORE you spent legal fees realizing you couldn't agree on anything.  Don't let the legal system figure out your financial situation. The Courts are too bogged down with divorce cases to get to know your individual situation, and they don't know your family!*

*​****START WITH MEDIATION; NOT LITIGATION***

***A mediator gets to know your family****, learns your kids' names and figures out a way for you and your spouse to stay amicable for the sake of your children. Imagine how much better it would be if you could learn how to negotiate with your spouse and come up with solutions that work for your family. This is what a mediator does. This is what I can do for you.* ***I work with a team of professionals whose primary interest is your family.*** *My team consists of a family mediator and a financial advisor who specializes in divorce mediation.*

*Together, they get to know your family and help you frame a settlement that works for everyone! Why is it important for you to find a team of professionals? Because you need to feel that you are being properly represented, you need to feel secure, you need to feel safe with the people you are trusting your future to, and maybe most importantly, you need to feel that* ***as you navigate this journey of divorce, your family stays intact.***

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