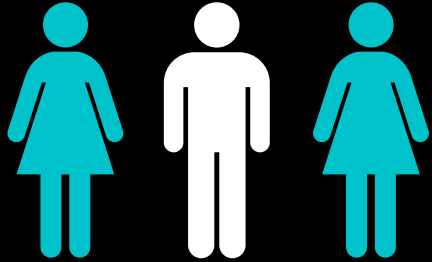


# Why Mediate?



Mediation is a flexible process that many families find to be faster and less stressful than dealing with separation and divorce through the courts. Mediation can significantly reduce the financial and emotional toll of separation on families.

With mediation, the parties control the outcome. The mediator does not make a decision for you but instead facilitates productive conversations between you and your spouse so you can make the important decisions you need to move forward. There are many benefits, including:

1. **Healthier Families:** Mediation is less adversarial and more collaborative. Less conflict means healthier parties and healthier families as a whole.
2. **Benefits to Children:** Court proceedings can take a toll on your children's health and well-being. Mediation allows parents to put the best interests of the children first, before the matter is litigated.
3. **Client Satisfaction:** Research shows that mediation clients are more satisfied with the mediation process than clients who engage in the traditional court process.
4. **Positive Agreements:** Outcomes from a mediation have a higher rate of success than other dispute resolution processes.
5. **Cost-effective:** Mediation saves the parties time and money.

## Why participate in the Virtual Family Mediation Project?

1. **Free services.** Pro bono means that there is no expectation for you to pay for any of the legal services if you meet the financial qualifications for the Project.
2. **Independent Legal Advice Lawyer.** You will be matched with a lawyer who will give you independent legal advice before and after the mediation.
3. **Pro bono mediator.** You will be matched with a fully neutral mediator who will meet with both parties independently before the mediation. After this consultation, the mediator will schedule a mediation at a time that works for everyone. At the mediation, the mediator will help you and your spouse to have important conversations about your family and, if the process is successful, reach an agreement to resolve your legal issues.
4. **Virtual process.** All meetings will take place over the phone or video conferencing software. You can attend the mediation from the comfort of your home or office.