



# Process Options

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## You Have a Choice

Separation and divorce is stressful and painful. The way you choose to resolve the issues can make it worse or better. You decide the road to take.

## Collaborative Process

The Collaborative process is a cost-effective, future-focused, efficient, creative, problem-solving process. It is not about finding blame. It's about creating a unique resolution that meets the core concerns of both parties. Your Collaboratively-trained lawyers will support you to find a resolution to the issues through a series of meetings. You'll get the information you need to make the best decisions. You will commit to not going to family court and to negotiating a fair deal that works over the long term. In many cases, this can be an effective way to minimize the cost and pain of divorce.

## Mediation

You and your spouse work with a neutral third party to negotiate the terms of an agreement that works for your family. Normally, your lawyer does not attend the mediation process but you will have the opportunity to review the agreement with your lawyer prior to signing an agreement. It is effective, but some clients prefer the Collaborative process where your lawyer is present throughout the negotiations.

## Lawyer Negotiations

It is always better to negotiate a settlement than to litigate it. Lawyer negotiations often result in an agreement. Some negotiations are conducted by correspondence but we sometimes have four way meetings to discuss the issues face-to-face. It is still possible for the case to go to family court if resolution is not achieved. While family court can be slow, costly and difficult to predict, there are occasions where court will be the best way to achieve your goals or progress the matter forward.

## Family Court

Family court is generally a last resort. It may be slow and results may be difficult to predict as we are asking a judge with their own subjective beliefs to make a decision. The adversarial nature of the process may escalate the animosity between the parties. The court process is most suitable to parties who are unable or unwilling to communicate or cannot agree about the matters at issue. Although we regularly represent clients in family court, we do so only if there is no other avenue of resolution available.

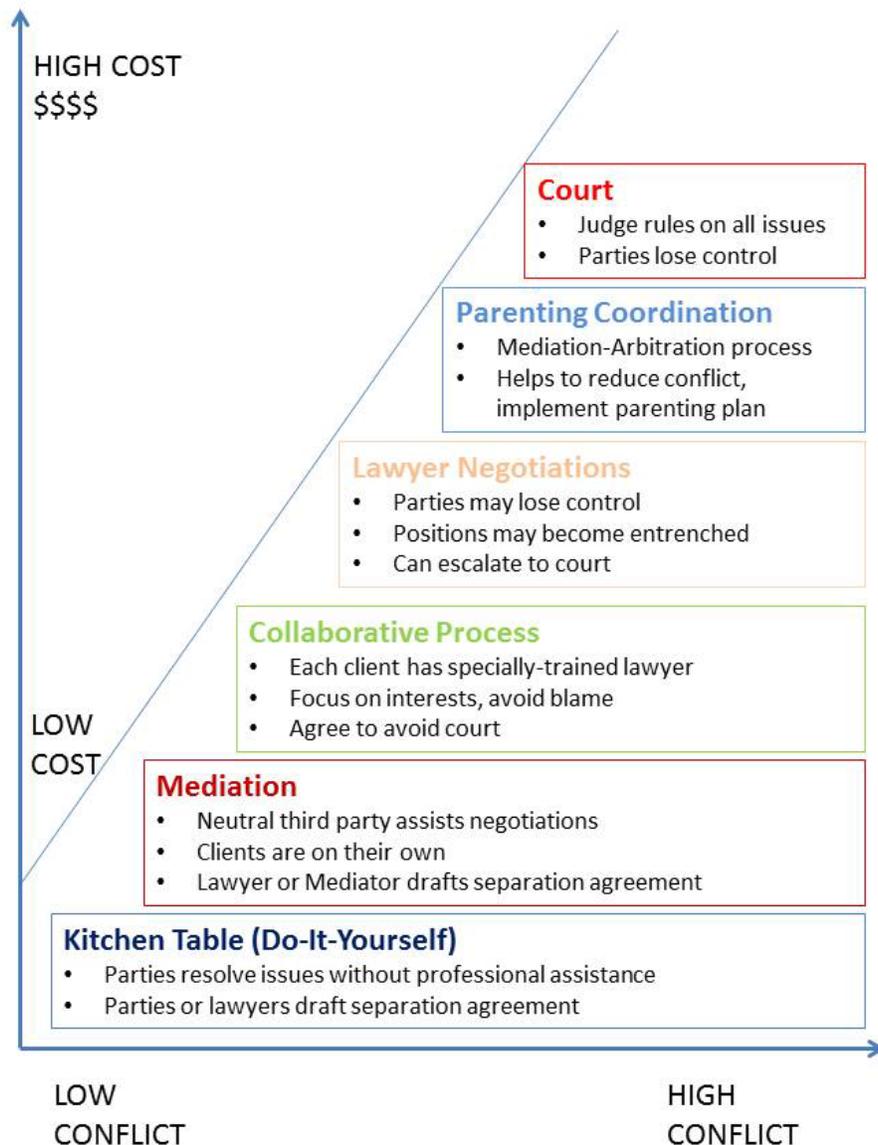


## Parenting Coordination

Parenting Coordination is a child-focused dispute resolution process that assists consenting separated or divorced parents who are experiencing conflict to implement their existing parenting plan in an expeditious manner. Parenting coordinators focus on the use of mediation techniques to assist the parties to resolve their conflict, but also may have decision-making authority granted by the parents to assist them to arrive at final resolution.

The overarching purpose of Parenting Coordination is to minimize parental conflict thereby reducing risks to children. PC helps the parents to disengage, thereby being able to work towards cooperative and effective co-parenting of their children.

Here is a chart that compares the various process choices.



\*\* costs may vary; consult with your lawyer about the most cost-effective options for you