

MEDIATION PROCESS

Mediation is a voluntary and informal process. Mediators have no authority to make decisions, impose settlements or require concessions by any party. The mediator's goal is to facilitate your discussions and assist in the negotiation process so that you can reach a mutually acceptable resolution. The mediator will not provide legal advice, nor will the mediator testify or argue your case to the court.

Confidentiality is a cornerstone to the mediation process. All information provided during mediation is confidential pursuant to Florida Statute 44.401 – 44.406 and Rule 10.360. **Unless instructed otherwise, the mediator, Jean M. Dwyer, will not hold information confidential between the parties and their respective attorneys.** Pursuant to Florida Statute 44.406 you are also required to keep all mediation communications confidential.

Participation at mediation should be limited to the named parties and their attorneys. Upon consent of both parties, certain other parties who may be integral to the process may attend. This must be arranged in advance.

Children will not be allowed to attend the mediation session. Please do not bring children to the mediation session.

Each party is expected to fully disclose all financial information including, but not limited to, financial affidavits, income tax returns, pay stubs, and property valuations in family law mediations that involve financial issues. It is beneficial in both civil and family law mediations to exchange required or needed information/discovery prior to attending mediation to maximize your time at mediation.

If at some point during the mediation process the mediator may call for a separate session with either or both parties or their attorneys to aid the negotiations. Either party or attorney may also request a separate session. **Information shared during a separate session will not be treated as confidential unless specifically requested.**