

Florida Divorce/Paternity Mediation Checklist

Helping You Prepare for a Productive and Informed Mediation

Mediation is a confidential, cooperative process in which both spouses/parents work with a neutral mediator to resolve issues related to their divorce or parenting case. This checklist will help you get ready, know what to expect, and stay organized throughout the process.

Before Mediation

Please make sure the following are complete **before you file**:

- **Financial Affidavit Completed**
 - Short Form (if you earn under \$50,000/year)
 - Long Form (if you earn \$50,000 or more)
 - **Proof of Florida Residency (one of the parties must reside 6 months in Florida before filing)**
 - Driver's license, state ID, or signed affidavit
 - **Parenting Class Completed** (*if you have children*)
 - Certificate must be filed with the court
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If You Have Children

Florida law requires that certain issues are addressed when children are involved:

- **Time-Sharing Plan** (where the child will live and when)
 - Weekly schedule
 - Holidays and school breaks
 - Transportation responsibilities
 - **Parental Responsibility**
 - Shared or sole decision-making (school, medical, etc.)
 - **Child Support**
 - Based on state guidelines (cannot be waived)
 - Includes health insurance and uncovered medical expenses
 - Includes daycare or after-school care if applicable
 - **Other Parenting Terms**
 - Travel restrictions (domestic or international)
 - Use of passports and other travel documents
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Financial Issues






We will discuss how to fairly divide everything you own and owe:

- **Assets**
 - Real estate, bank accounts, retirement, vehicles, personal property
 - **Debts**
 - Credit cards, loans, mortgages
 - **Alimony (Spousal Support)**
 - If applicable, we will review type, amount, and duration
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Legal & Tax Considerations

- Who will claim any children on taxes
 - Whether any support continues beyond age 18
 - Any agreements about property refinancing or buyouts
 - Agreement does **not** transfer title — deeds or additional forms are required
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Important Mediation Reminders

-  **Children may not attend mediation.**
 -  If an interpreter is needed, they must be a neutral adult (not a child).
 -  You may bring an attorney, but it's not required.
 -  Mediation is confidential. The mediator cannot testify in court.
 -  If there is a history of domestic violence or an active injunction, please let the mediator know before the session. Special arrangements (such as separate rooms) can be made.
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After Mediation

- You'll receive a **Mediation Agreement** (full, partial, or temporary)
 - File signed agreement with the court
 - Follow up with your attorney (if you have one)
 - Make sure you understand all your responsibilities under the agreement
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- Any court documents or notices
- Most recent pay stubs or income proof
- Monthly expense details (rent, insurance, childcare, etc.)
- Any documents related to property, bank accounts