

Mediation at the Samaritan Center of Puget Sound

What is mediation?

Mediation is a process whereby a neutral facilitator (mediator) helps people in a conflict reach mutual agreement through a “win-win” solution. Mediation is voluntary and allows parties to develop their own solutions.

What types of disputes can be mediated?

Virtually any type of dispute can be mediated, although both parties must willingly agree to negotiate in “good faith.” Good faith requires that both parties agree to share information, listen to each other carefully and consider moving from their initial positions.

Some examples of disputes that can be mediated:

- Dissolution of marriage, property settlements, parenting plans
- Workplace disputes: supervisor-employee, employee-employee
- Church disputes
- Business and sales disputes: consumer complaints, products, repairs, rentals
- Family disputes: truancy, teen issues
- Landlord/tenant: rent, deposits, repairs, noise
- Neighborhood disputes: animals, property boundaries, noise, trees

Direct Dial Phone 206-957-4696

What are the advantages of mediation?

- **High reward, low risk** – all deliberations are confidential and, although mediation has a proven record of success, other remedies are still available if the results are unsatisfactory.
- **Preserves relationships** by respecting both parties and working toward mutually-beneficial solutions. Parties often report communicating better during mediation than previously.
- **Cost effective**—costs much less than other forms of dispute resolution.
- **Fast** – can be scheduled quickly and usually lasts just a few hours.
- **Convenient** – can be scheduled during the day, evenings or weekends.

Mediation Offices:
Kent, 409 3rd Ave S.
Seattle, Ravenna Blvd
Others as needed

The Role of Mediation for Divorcing Couples

The primary purpose of mediating a divorce (dissolution) is for the parties to reach a mutually-beneficial agreement about dividing community property and, if applicable, develop a plan to effectively parent children. Mediation is an excellent and cost effective way to resolve these issues in a manner that promotes a positive relationship – especially when compared to litigation with legal representation.

However, mediation is not a substitute for legal advice. Although mediation allows the parties to save thousands of dollars during the process of resolving parenting and property division issues, it does not provide legal advice or advocacy. And mediators do not file the necessary documents with the court. Samaritan strongly advises divorcing couples to seek legal advice before completing the dissolution process or to become their own “expert”. Samaritan can provide information about resources to complement the mediation process.