

DIVORCE OPTIONS

	Simplified	Mediated	Collaborative	Litigated
What type of case is most appropriate for the process	A case where the parties are able to discuss the issues and come to a full agreement on how to divide their assets & liabilities, how to develop a parenting plan and any support issues	A case where the parties have good communication, have had some advice regarding their rights and responsibilities for the issues involved, and are close to an agreement but need some help	A case where the parties understand that they do not want to litigate the matter but are struggling with reaching an agreement on one or more issues	A case where the parties have tried all other forms of resolving the issues and cannot come to an agreement.
How to begin process	Have a discussion with your spouse / partner and come to an agreement regarding all issues	Have a discussion with your spouse / partner to determine the areas where there is agreement and the issues that you need assistance to resolve	Have a conversation with a collaboratively trained attorney to retain the attorney and begin the process	Have a conversation with an attorney familiar with divorce litigation. It is recommended that you consider a Board Certified Martial & Family Attorney
How long does it take to receive a Final Judgment	These cases can be resolved in as little as three weeks	The amount of time depends upon the number of issues to be addressed and therefore the number of mediation sessions necessary. In many cases the case can be resolved in a less than 6 months	The amount of time depends upon the number of issues to be addressed and therefore the number of collaborative sessions necessary. In many cases the case can be resolved in a approximately 6 months	This is controlled by the attorneys involved and the Court Docket. Often these cases take more than a year to resolve from the time the initial Petition is filed and some complicated cases take more than 2 years.
How much does it cost	This can be completed for a flat fee: \$2,500 with no children \$3,000 with children Plus, the Filing and Recording fees for the Court	The hourly rate is \$350 per hour for the mediation and drafting of documents.	The hourly rate for each Collaborative Attorney will be paid by each spouse / partner. In addition, the Collaborative Team includes a Neutral Financial Professional and Neutral Facilitator who assist the team. Our office charges \$400 per hour to represent a client in the collaborative process and \$300 per hour to act as a facilitator.	The hourly rate for each attorney will be paid by each spouse / partner. In addition, each spouse may need their own financial professional to testify and there may be a court appointed Social Investigator if there are children. Also, the Court may order a mediation prior to trial which will result in the fees for the mediator. The attorney may request additional experts, process server, etc. at additional expense.