



CATHERINE E. MORTON

WMA Certified Professional Mediator
Family Law Mediation Services

Ms. Morton is a respected family therapist with over thirty years of experience in helping her clients resolve conflicts in a safe, private and confidential environment.

Catherine's understanding of the emotional-relational dynamics involved in Family Law cases allows her to firmly, but gently, guide her clients toward reaching fair, honorable and durable agreements.

Her particular contribution to families in Pre-Divorce settlement planning sessions or for those with Post-Decree Parenting Plan issues is her ability to help the parties find a "blended compromise", based on their needs, interests and concerns.

Relevant Education:

- * Master of Counseling, 1980
Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID
- * Master of Arts, Sociology, 1980
Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID
- * B.A., business & Office Administration, 1974
San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
- * Domestic Relations Mediation, 1997
Portland State University, Portland, OR
- * Divorce Mediation, 1998
The Mediation Center, Eugene, OR

Professional Licenses & Certification:

Certified Professional Mediator, Washington
Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Washington
Licensed Professional Counselor, Oregon

Professional Memberships:

Academy of Family Mediators
Washington Mediation Association
Oregon Mediation Association
American Counseling Association
WA State Assoc. of Counseling and
Development



SOUTHWEST
WASHINGTON
MEDIATION
CENTER

THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE TO COURT

MEDIATION IS SAFE

Nothing happens without your consent.

MEDIATION IS PRIVATE

You can avoid public disclosure or your personal or business matters.

MEDIATION IS CONFIDENTIAL

The process is protected by statute.

MEDIATION IS VOLUNTARY

You can withdraw, suspend or terminate the process at any time, for any reason.

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**For clients who have the courage to
avoid adversarial proceedings.**

DIRECTIVE MEDIATION & FAMILY LAW PLANNING SERVICES

Comprehensive Marital Settlements
Financial Summary Preparation
Property, Asset and Debt Distributions
Spousal maintenance and Child Support
Parenting Plan Development
Post-Decree Parenting plan issues





WHAT IS MEDIATION?

It is a collaborative dispute resolution and settlement negotiation process conducted by a neutral third party, the mediator.

The parties in mediation make their own informed decisions on the issues and are responsible for the outcome.

Mediation is a non-adversarial alternative forum to litigation, arbitration or attorney negotiated settlements.

Mediation is for the purpose of creating agreements, not for winning arguments.

IS MEDIATION FOR US?

If you answer "yes" to any of the following questions, mediation could be a viable and attractive option for you to consider.

Do you want to maintain control over the decisions that will impact your lives?

Do you want to avoid the financial burden and emotional trauma of adversarial legal proceedings?

Do you want to create a fair, honorable and durable agreements?

Are you willing to work together to achieve a mutually acceptable result?



WHAT ABOUT MY LEGAL RIGHTS?



You do not waive any of your legal rights by participating in mediation.

Mediators are ethically required to advise clients to consult with independent legal counsel during the process to review the issues and proposed agreements as they are developed. This policy will enhance your confidence in the mediation process.

In order to avoid any potential conflicts of interest or legal representational issues, the mediator will not give any party legal advice or prepare court documents.

HOW DO WE START THE PROCESS?

Contact a professional mediator to arrange an initial consultation to review your case. Ask your attorneys for mediator referrals.

If you are comfortable with the mediator and your case is accepted, you will sign an Agreement to Mediate and set a schedule for formal mediation sessions. The result of your successful mediation will be a written Memorandum of Understanding, drafted by the mediator, which sets forth the details of your agreement.

Once signed, this documents can then be incorporated into your mandatory court forms or other required legal paperwork.



WHAT ABOUT OTHER EXPERTS?

Outside professionals can be used for any number of reasons, including tax advice, financial planning and property, business or pension valuations, to ensure that you are making informed decisions.

Mediation clients may jointly retain outside assistance from someone they both trust in order to save time and money, but you are entitled to obtain your own independent advice on any issue.

Your mediator or your attorneys can help you with referrals to outside resources.

FOR FAMILY LAW CLIENTS

Mediation is an opportunity to create a positive outcome for both parents and children following the decision to divorce.

The mediator can refer parents for outside consultations with other professionals when necessary, to assist them in making good decisions on behalf of their children.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN DIVORCE ARE A MATTER OF FIRST PRIORITY.

A list will be provided at your consultation.

