
WHAT IS FAMILY MEDIATION?

Presented by

*Billings Mediation
Center*

www.BillingsMediationCenter.Org



An Effective, Affordable, and Satisfying Form of Alternative Dispute Resolution

Mediation

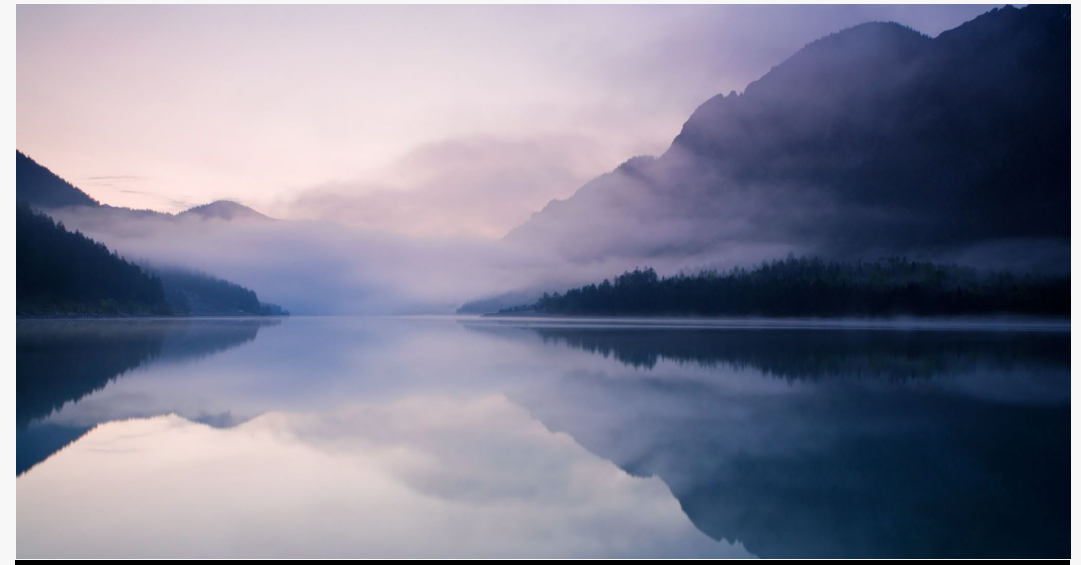
Mediation is a confidential meeting where a mediator helps parties exchange information and consider possible solutions. A mediator does not issue orders, give opinions on how the case should be resolved, or advocate for either party. Mediation is a non-adversarial, cooperative method which clears the way for open and helpful communication between the parties.

Mediation is particularly helpful where the parties will be involved in an ongoing relationship after the dispute is resolved (e.g., families, business associates, landlords and tenants, etc.).

The mediator makes sure that all parties have an equal chance to be heard. Parties are encouraged to express emotion and frustrations that may be interfering with the negotiations. The mediator helps to identify the issues and explore possible solutions. Mediation is the least formal DR procedure, and in many cases the parties' lawyers do not attend due to the focus on the parties' wishes. *Parties are generally happier with a mediated settlement because they are given a way to solve their own difficulties.*

The length of mediation depends upon the nature of the dispute, the number of issues, the parties' commitment to mediation, and the communication skills of the parties and the mediator. Mediation may consist of one session or may require several sessions.

<https://www.montanabar.org/page/DisputeResolution>



Never Married?

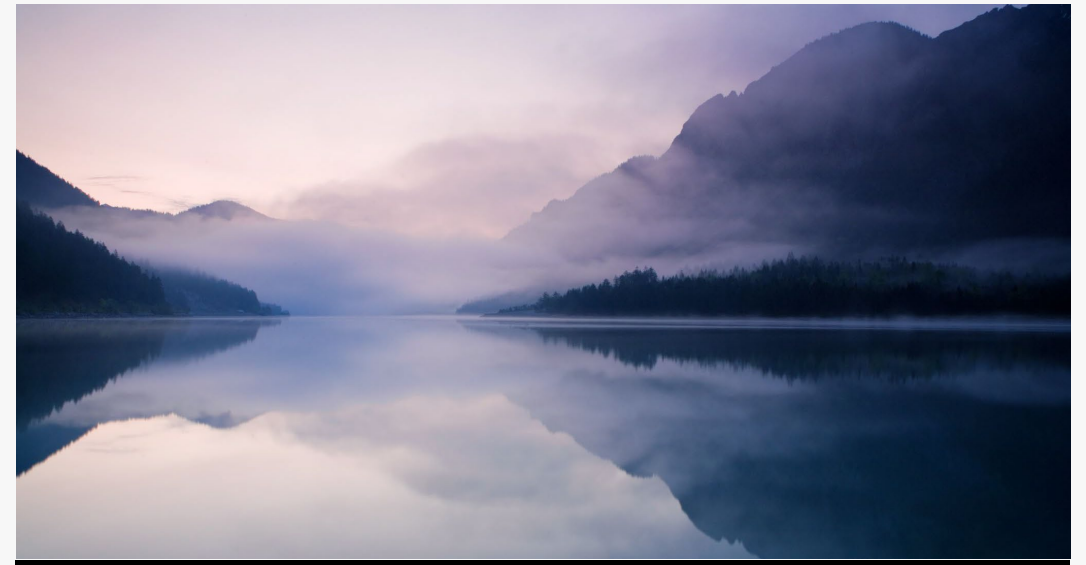
Separating?

Divorcing?

Can't agree on arrangements for your children?

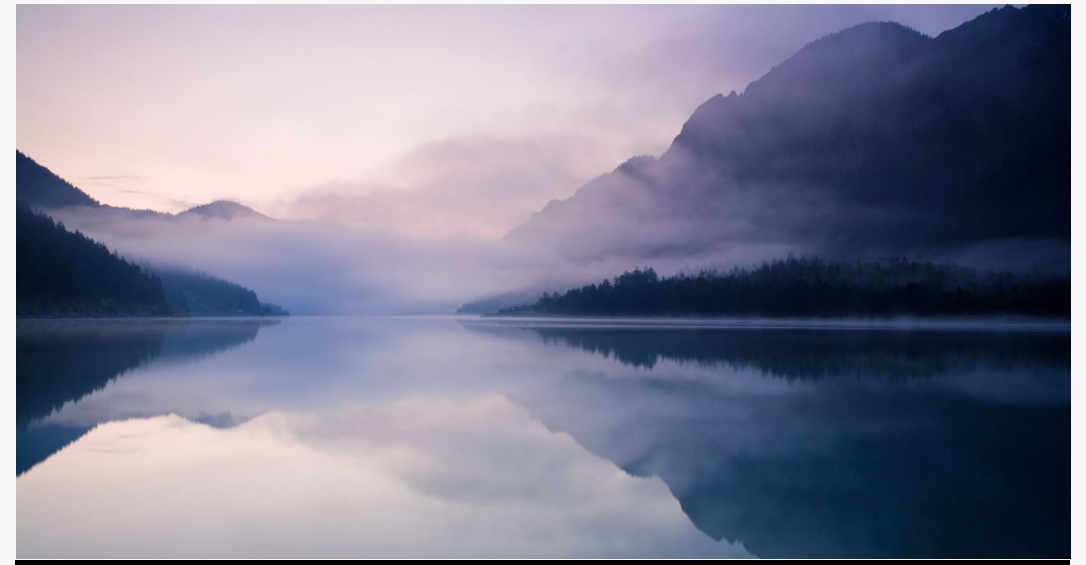
Arguing about who gets what?

Mediation is Effective and Works for All.



WHAT IS A MEDIATOR?

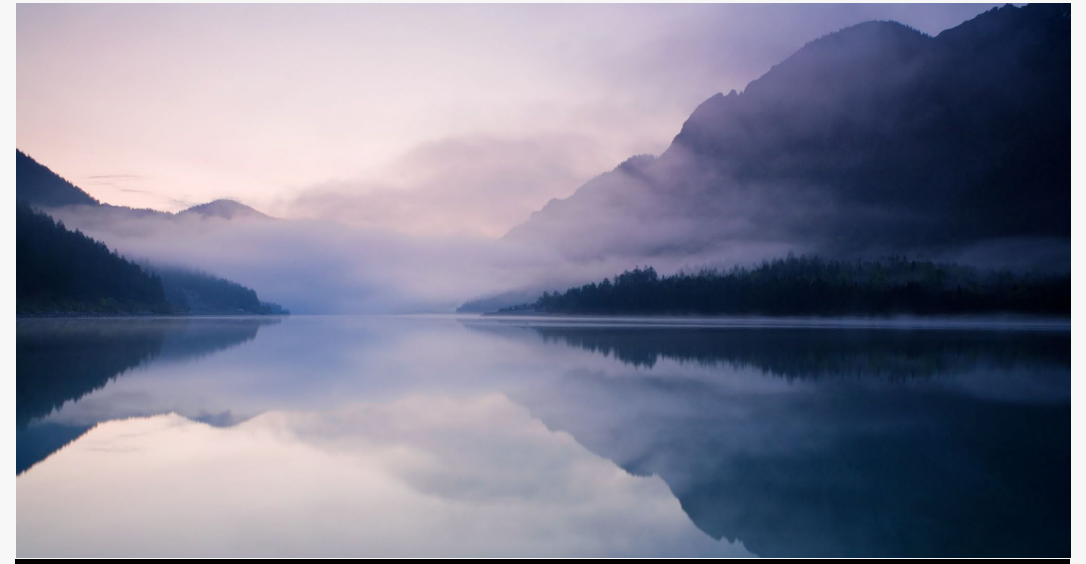
A mediator provides a process for resolving differences. A mediator listens to each party, asks questions about the situations, thoughts and feelings, helps both sides talk about finding a solution, and organize and summarize all the information that may lead to a solution satisfactory to both sides.



Mediators

Do Not:

**Make decisions for the parties/parents or children*

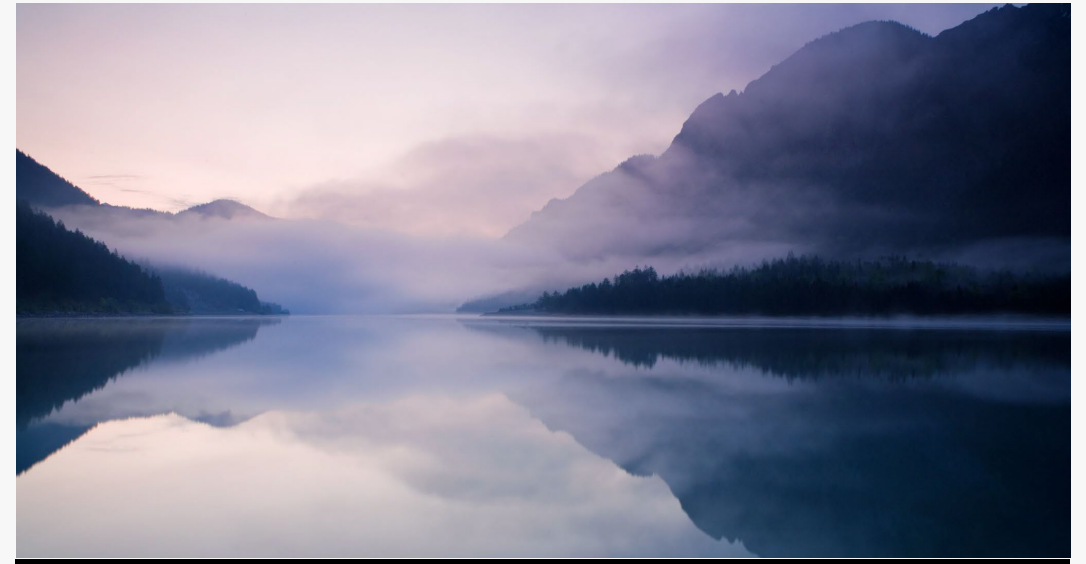


Mediators

Do Not:

**Make decisions for the parties/parents or children*

**Take Sides*



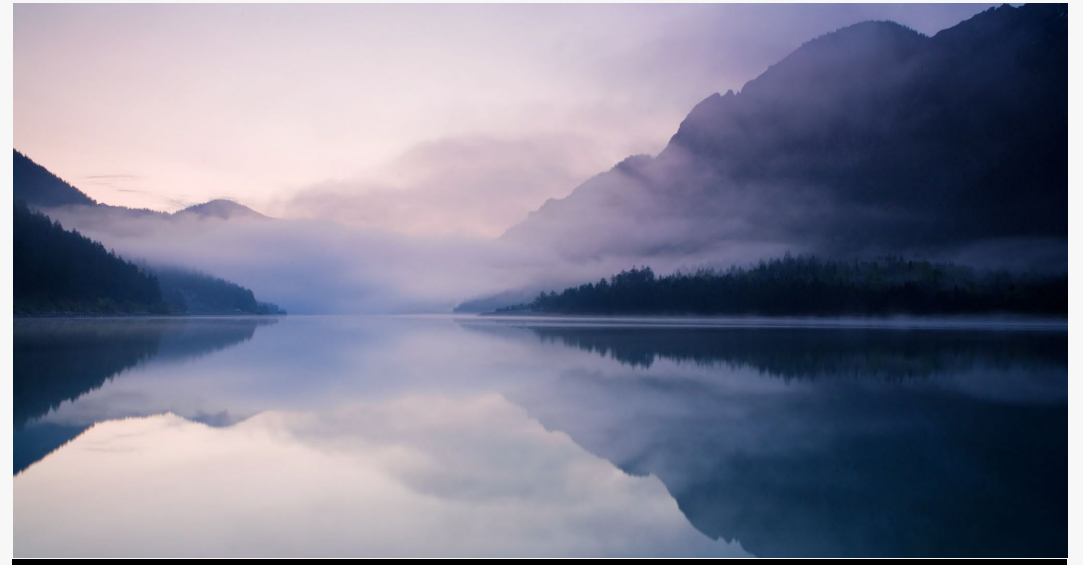
Mediators

Do Not:

**Make decisions for the parties/parents or children*

**Take Sides*

**Give Their Opinion*



Mediators

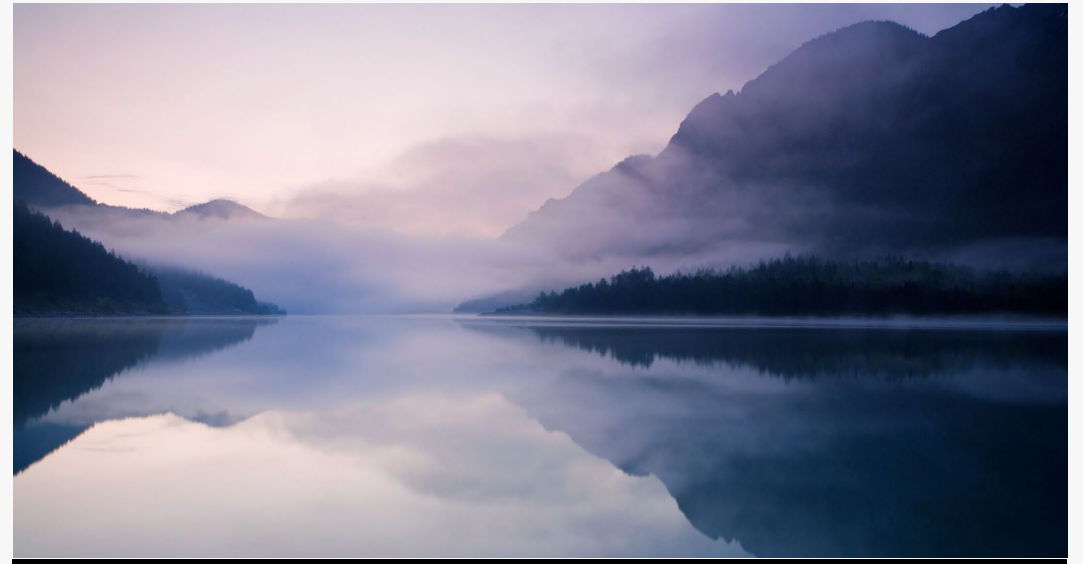
Do Not:

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**Take Sides*

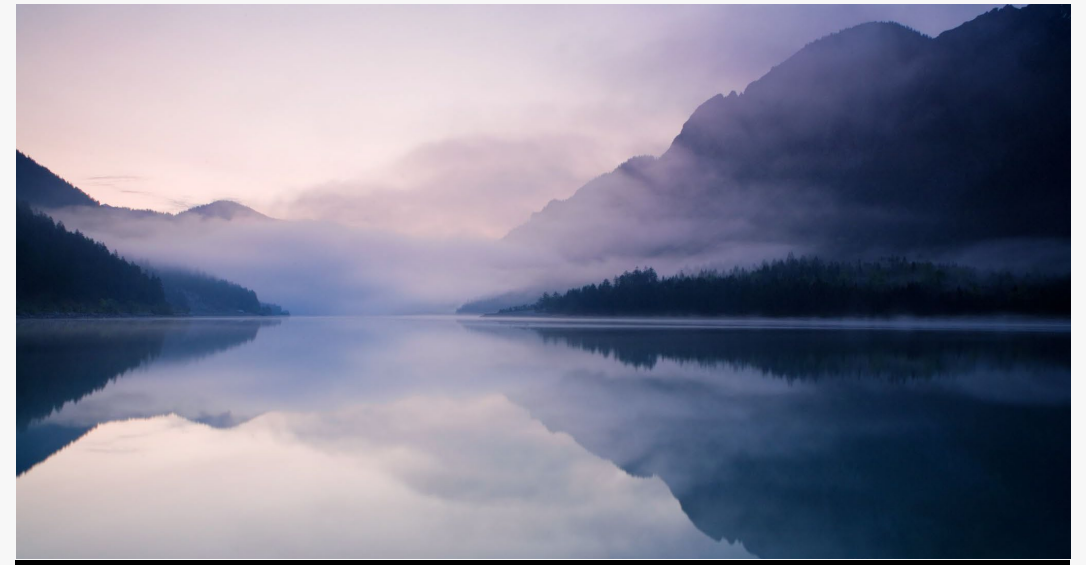
**Give Their Opinion*

**Determine Blame or Guilt*



Mediation is:

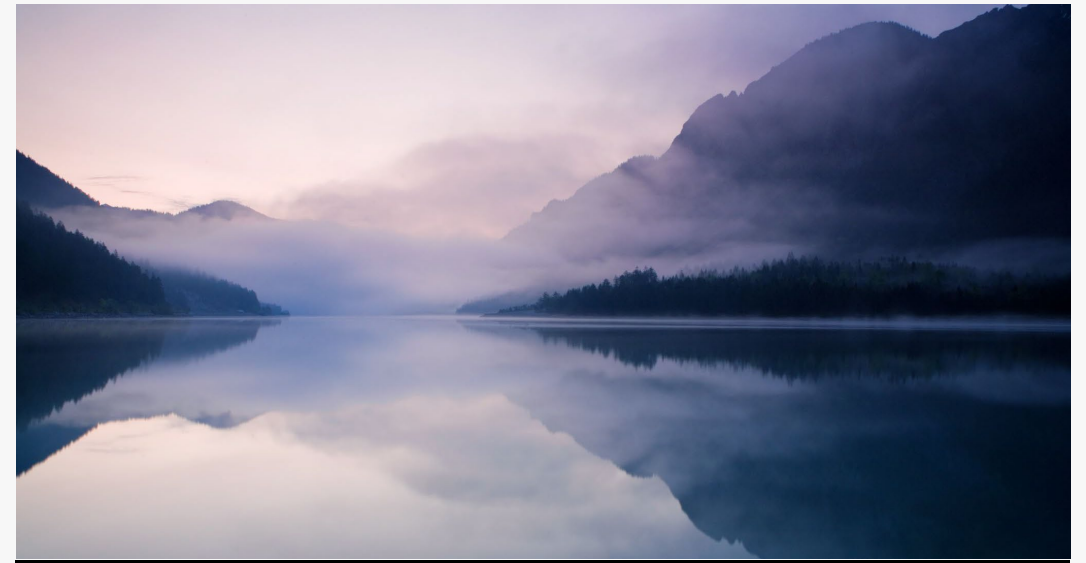
Voluntary: Participants are not forced to attend any mediation and are free to leave at any time.



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Voluntary: Participants are not forced to attend any mediation and are free to leave at any time.

Confidential: Information revealed in mediation is not shared with outsiders.

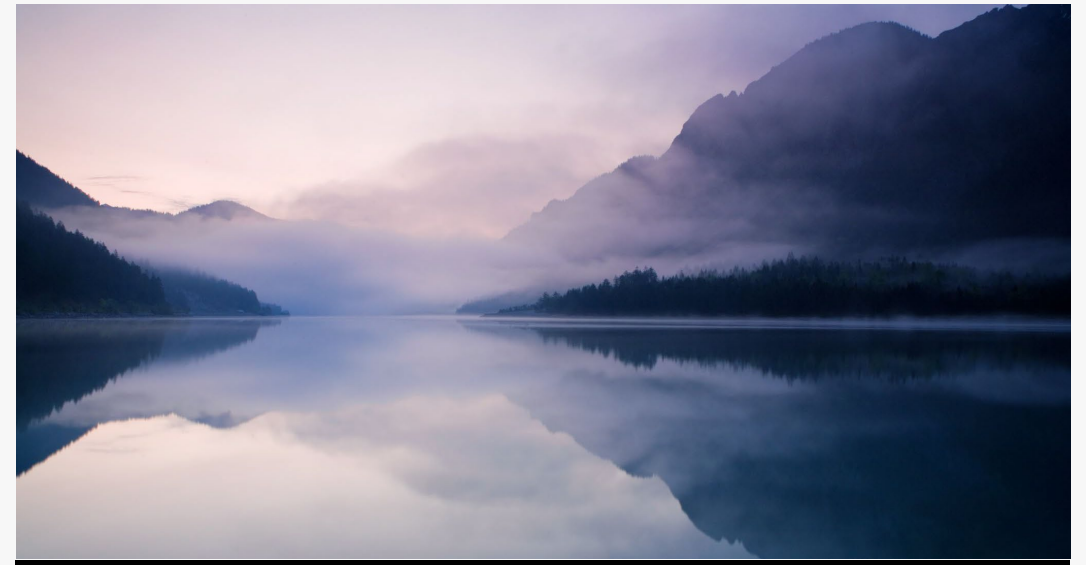


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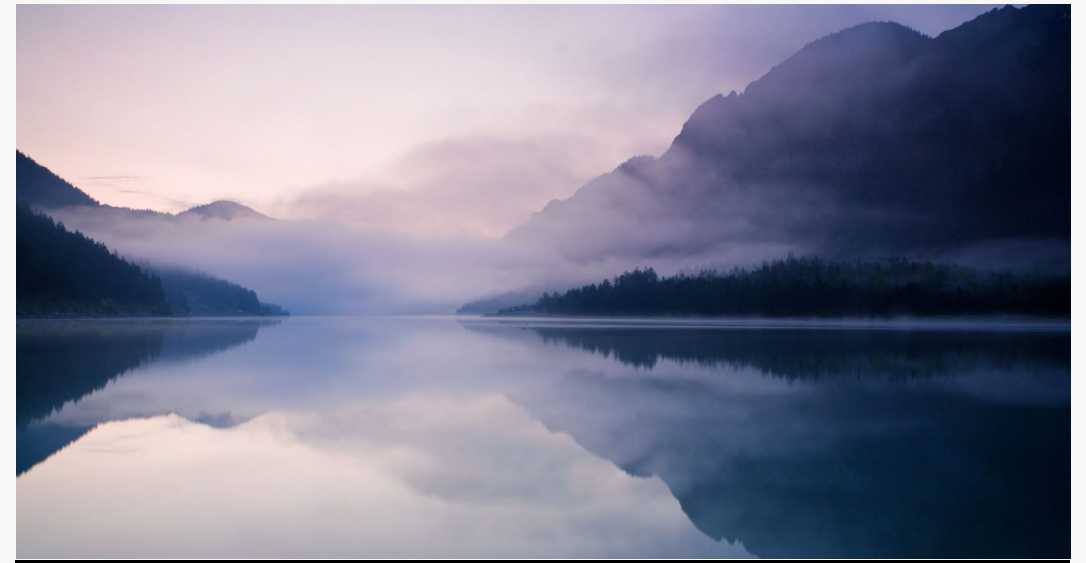
Confidential: Information revealed in mediation is not shared with outsiders.

Neutral: Mediators do not take sides, give opinions, or make suggestions.



Mediation Allows:

- * More control by the parties/parents than going to court. In court, judges decide the future.*
- * Less expense than going to court and a long-drawn out battle. Sliding-scale fees are available based on eligibility.*
- * Less stress on the parties than going to court, especially for children.*
- * If you have children, mediation allows you to focus on their needs.*
- * Agreements that are practical for the specific needs of your children and households.*



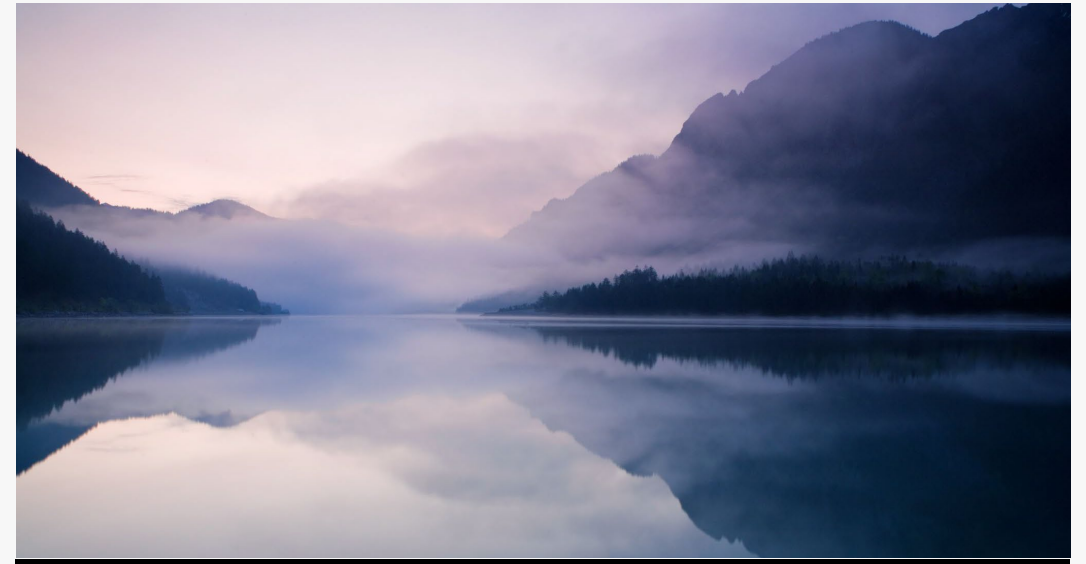
Does a Mediator...?

Is mediation about trying to get us to stay together?

No, mediators help you work out what happens after you separate. They won't try to get you and your ex-partner back together.

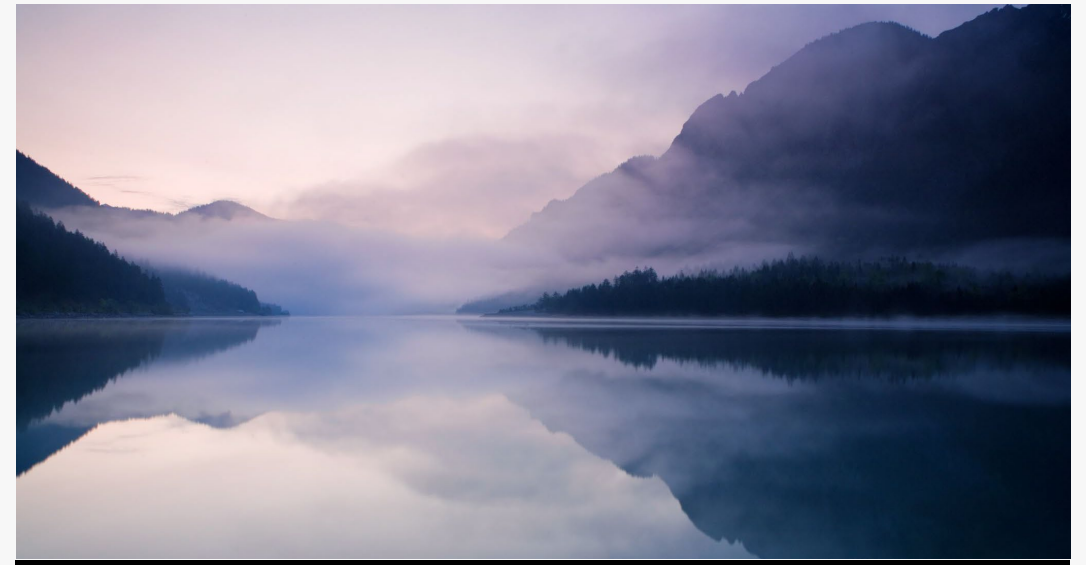
Does a mediator give me a divorce?

No, you'll need to ask the court to legally end your marriage or civil partnership. A mediated agreement can work efficiently towards that goal.



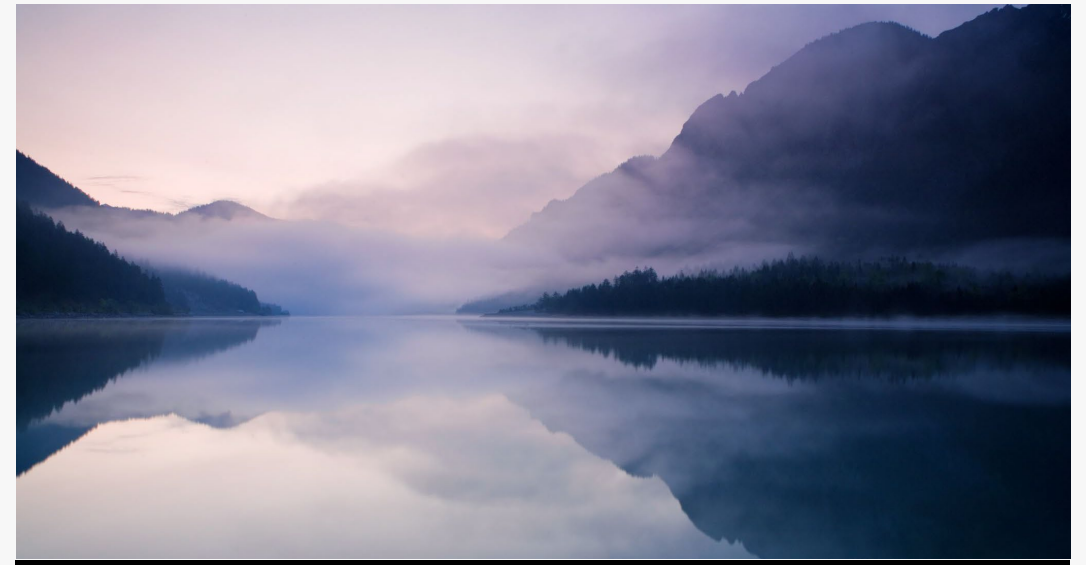
What if I would rather go to Court?

Courts are more frequently enforcing the requirement for mediation before a judge will hear your case, unless there are special circumstances.



Resolution

If any agreement is reached, it is drafted by the mediator to outline the specific terms of the resolution *as worded by those present.*



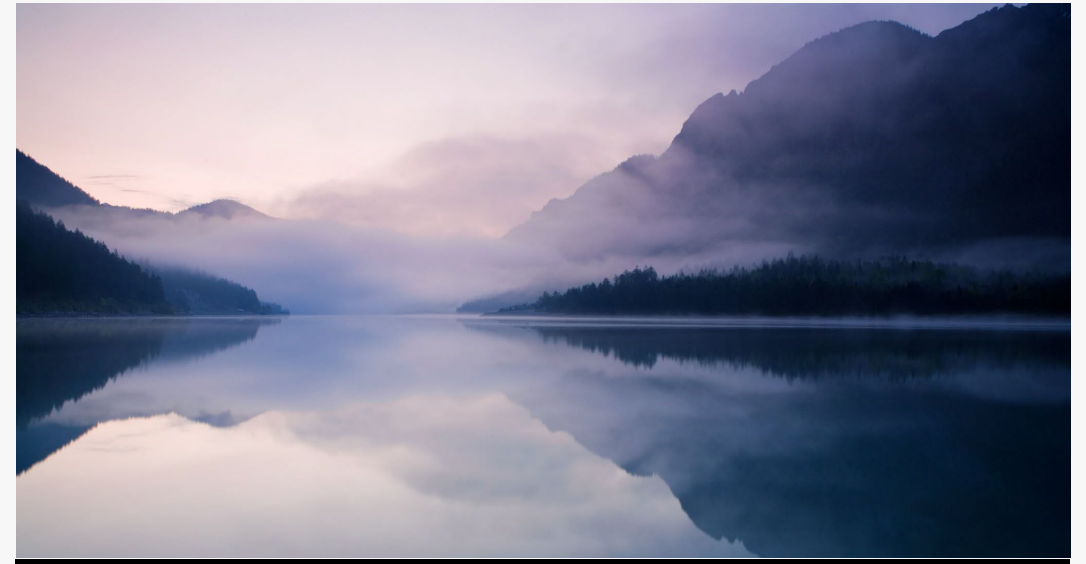
Resolution

If any agreement is reached, it is drafted by the mediator to outline the specific terms of the resolution *as worded by those present*.

The agreement is then signed by both parties and may be enforceable in Montana courts.

Attorneys or other professional support are welcome in mediation to support the process.

If notarization of signatures is desired, a notary can be available.



For more information:

Contact

Billings Mediation Center -406-672-4570

Schedule a 15-minute consult here:

[15-Minute Consult](#)

Complete an Intake Form to have an invitation sent to another person:

[Mediation Intake/Invite](#)

