

Who we are

Wendy Forrester is an experienced attorney, mediator and legal educator. She has been a member of the California State Bar since 1985. As a family law attorney, she sought a more compassionate and economical approach to divorce. Finding that mediation best addressed the needs of families, she began mediating in 1988. With over two decades of mediation experience, her practice focuses exclusively on family mediation. As a leader in the profession, Wendy serves on the Board of Directors of the Southern California Mediation Association.

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To learn more, contact us for a complimentary mediation consultation.

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Preparing for Mediation



**WENDY FORRESTER
MEDIATION CENTER**

What is Divorce Mediation?

Mediation provides families with a confidential, non-confrontational and economical approach to divorce. Divorce mediation allows families to control the outcome, rather than courts. Families can tailor the terms of divorce to meet their needs and values. As your mediator, I will guide you through the decision making process allowing each of you to be heard and understood on the issues of parenting, support and the division of your property and debt. You and your spouse will determine how each of these issues are decided.

Bringing families together so they can live successful lives apart.

Why Choose Mediation?

- Mediation minimizes the negative effects of divorce on children
- Families, not courts, retain control of the outcome
- Mediation allows parents to focus on the needs of their children and develop a positive parenting plan in the best interests of the family
- Mediation is voluntary, confidential and non-confrontational
- The time and expense of divorce is reduced
- Assets are preserved for the family
- Equitable terms are agreed to for child and spousal support

Children's Rights in Divorce

Unlike traditional divorce, mediation helps parents reduce conflict to lessen the trauma of divorce on children. Mediation builds better communication fostering respectful and collaborative co-parenting.

- Each child has the right to develop and maintain an independent relationship with each parent.
- Each child has the right to be free of the conflict between the parents.
- Each child has the right to be free from having to take sides with, defend or denigrate either parent.
- Each child has the right to be guided, taught, supervised, disciplined, and nurtured by each parent, without interference from the other parent.
- Each child has the right to be financially supported by both parents, regardless of how much time each parent spends with the child.
- Each child has the right to know both parents, and to spend time with both parents on a regular basis, for holidays and for vacation periods.
- Each child has the right to be physically safe and adequately supervised when in the care of each parent.
- Each child has the right to be protected from people under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Each child has the right to develop and maintain meaningful relationships with other significant adults, such as grandparents, stepparents and other relatives, as long as these relationships do not interfere with or replace the child's primary relationship with the child's parents.
- Each child has the right to expect that both parents will follow through with the child's residential plan, honoring specific commitments for scheduled time.

Mediation Checklist

Frequent Flier Mileage



Copies of all statements of mileage acquired during the marriage, including travel at the time of separation.

Real Property



Deeds to all property in which you have an interest and current statements of mortgages, home equity lines and other encumbrances against property. If title transfers have taken place during marriage, include all deeds and mortgage statements at time of transfer.

Income



Paystubs for the past two months; W-2 and 1099 forms for previous calendar year and Federal and State income tax returns for previous 3 years. Evidence of income from all sources.

Bank Accounts



Checking, savings, credit union, CD and other institutional accounts as of the date of separation and statements reflecting current balances.

Retirement Accounts



IRA, 401(k), pension and other retirement account statements as of the date of separation and most recent plan statements.

Resolving conflicts without confrontation.

Employee Benefits



Stock, stock options and profit sharing plan statements as of the date of separation and most recent statements.

Investment Accounts



Mutual funds, stocks, bonds and other investment account statements as of the date of separation and current statements.

Vehicles



Current loan statements and registration for all vehicles and Kelly Blue Book printouts of current value (refer to kellybluebook.com or other website).

Intellectual Property



Copyright interests, patents, royalties, and trademark rights for all works during the marriage, including works in progress at the time of separation.

Businesses



Last 3 tax returns for any partnership, corporation or other business entity, year to date profit and loss statements.

Debts



Copies of all loan and credit card statements as of date of separation and current statements