

# CONTINUUM OF PROCESS CHOICES FOR SEPARATION AND DIVORCE

KITCHEN  
TABLE

MEDIATION

COLLABORATIVE  
LAW

COURT-BASED  
SETTLEMENT

LITIGATION

←-----SPECTRUM-----→

High good will toward one another  
Want best for whole family  
More responsibility on the couple  
Less expensive  
Less time to complete  
Couple controls the final outcome

Low good will; high conflict  
Want best for self  
More responsibility on the lawyers/court  
More expensive  
More time to complete  
Court controls the final outcome

## As a couple you have:

Good conflict resolution skills  
Good organization skills  
Ability to listen and communicate  
Ability to see shades of grey  
Willingness to find a “middle ground”  
Ability to advocate for yourself

## As a couple you have:

Poor conflict resolution skills  
Poor organization skills  
Inability to listen and communicate  
See in black and white  
Need to “win”; other to “lose”  
Desire to delegate authority

←-----Lawyers needed to draft legal documents in all processes-----→

## Paper work needed in ALL processes:

Net Worth Statement(s)  
Settlement Agreement

Judgment roll for divorce (~\$1,500 if uncontested; includes \$340 in filing fees)  
Qualified Domestic Relations Order(s) - if qualified retirement plans are being divided  
Deed(s) and transfer documents - if real property is being transferred

## Other Professionals providing assistance:

**Financial Specialists** (help with gathering financial information and guiding you through the budgeting process)

**Therapists** (help with emotions/relationship transition; provide a voice for children; help with parenting plan)

**Mediator/Facilitators** (help with communication and constructive negotiations)

**Attorneys** (consulting, legal advice, neutral attorney, scribe, retained)