

	Collaborative Divorce	Mediation	Litigation
Expense	Medium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hourly fees for lawyers, coaches, specialists as required by each party. 	Low: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hourly mediator fees. Independent legal advice. Agreement drafting. 	High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lawyer fees, disbursements. Court filing fees. Professional report fees.
Child-Friendliness	High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's views obtained and considered neutrally. Encourages constructive discussions in parenting. 	High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's involvement determined case by case by parties and mediator together. 	Low: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children caught in middle of the parents' dispute. Pits parent vs. parent in a contest for the children.
Privacy	High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidentiality assured. Safe environment for negotiation is created. Participation Agreement excludes professionals from subsequent court processes. 	High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidentiality assured. Safe environment for negotiation is created. 	Low/None: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open, public process. Discussions, documents and evidence form part of the court record.
Participation	High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professionals assist and educate the parties. Negotiations include parties directly if they wish. Any resolutions <i>always</i> consensual. 	High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With guidance, parties craft their own resolutions. Parties' lawyers review and provide advice, if necessary. Any resolutions <i>always</i> consensual. 	Low: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lawyers direct the process, handle all the paperwork and make all court arguments. Resolutions ordered and imposed on the parties.
Fairness	High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lawyers protect the interests of the parties throughout. Children are not used as leverage and there is no posturing or strategizing. Any resolutions <i>always</i> consensual. 	High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mediator is neutral and lawyers can protect the interests of the parties throughout. Any resolutions <i>always</i> consensual. 	Variable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courts decide based on limited information. Strategizing has significant effect on results at trial. Party with more money normally has better lawyers and more bargaining power.
Duration	Low/Medium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution <i>generally</i> between 3 and 12 months. Resolution not guaranteed. 	Low/Medium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution <i>generally</i> between 3 and 12 months. Resolution not guaranteed. 	High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution <i>generally</i> between 12-36 months. Eventual resolution certain.
Pace	Variable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Custom-tailored process; Parties move at comfortable pace for them. 	Variable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Custom-tailored process; Parties move at comfortable pace for them. 	Low: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to court and lawyer scheduling.
Compliance	High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Custom-tailored agreement means a more durable agreement. 	High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Custom-tailored agreement means a more durable agreement. 	Variable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imposed resolution means less likelihood of compliance.
Emotional Toll	Variable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divorce Coaches manage emotional and psychological aspects of the dispute. Children are not dragged into the dispute. Conflict between parents significantly lessened. Preserves future relations for parents. 	Variable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mediator is not necessarily a counsellor, and does not act as one. Parties are responsible for their own emotional control and may need outside support. Preserves future relations for parents. 	High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court process is potentially embarrassing for family. Children, relatives and friends may get dragged into the dispute and take sides. Prolonged process delays the healing after separation. Adversarial process embitters and damages future relations for parents.