

## MEDIATION

Mediation is a process in which separating spouses negotiate a resolution of their issues with the assistance of an independent mediator. Mediation sessions can take place with or without lawyers present. Regardless of whether lawyers are present at the mediation sessions or not, each spouse needs to have his or her own lawyer to provide independent legal advice prior to a final agreement being signed. I recommend that each spouse retain a lawyer early on in the process.

### The Mediation Process:

1. Optional joint preliminary information session (½ hour conference call at no charge).
2. Each party will need to complete a confidential mediation intake form/questionnaire
3. Cameron will review the mediation intake form prior to intake interviews
4. Individual intake interviews will be scheduled (in person; approximately 1 hour; block fee of \$450 + HST)
5. Mediation retainer needs to be signed by both spouses and returned to our office, or signed at the first joint meeting
6. Cameron's hourly rate is \$450 and his retainer is \$5,000 (\$2,500 payable by each spouse)
7. Joint services will be billed to each party at a fee of \$225/hr; individual services will be billed to each party at a fee of \$450/hr.
8. First mediation session is scheduled (2.5 hours)
9. Confidential *Goals & Interests* questionnaire will be distributed to be completed by each spouse before the second mediation session
10. After each mediation session, individual calls are scheduled with Cameron (approximately 15 minutes)
11. Progress Notes are prepared and distributed after each mediation session
12. Cameron will prepare a draft Separation Agreement and distribute to each spouse, who then will consult with his/her lawyer to review.
13. A final agreement will be signed once each spouse and his/her lawyer is satisfied with terms of the agreement