

Mediation is not therapy, but the outcome may be therapeutic ... minimize the emotional toll.

Mediation and divorce without Lawyers in Court?

In Florida, couples can mediate without lawyers and can obtain a "pro se" (for self) divorce. No lawyers need to be present at the mediation or in court.

Where?

Mediations are conducted at the Family Counseling Center in Bradenton. The Bradenton office on Cortez Road West in Bradenton is comfortable, neutral and private. It is located near the intersection of US 41 and Cortez Road. Or, if the parties agree in advance, mediations can be facilitated long-distance by phone or internet presence.

When?

Both day and evening hours are available by appointment. Weekend hours can be arranged. Meet when it best suits your schedule.

How Much?

The fee is \$150 per hour payable at the end of each session. For the typical mediation, a couple with children and property, cost average: two 2-hour mediation session (one focused on distribution of assets and debts and one focused on visitation and child-support), \$600, \$850 for mediator's time to prepare the documents and a 1-hour final session, \$150, to review and sign documents. In addition to these costs, you must pay court filing fees (\$352.50). The total for this example is \$1,952.50. Although the cost may vary, you pay only for the time and services you require.

Who?

Linda M. Martin, MS, LMHC (FL#MH3149): Linda has over 35 years experience as a therapist and counselor. She was certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a Family Court Mediator in 1992.