

MEDIATED AGREEMENTS CAN FACILITATE POSITIVE CHANGE

by Christopher Hahn, Ph.D., MBA

Allowing clients to move forward by helping to solve disputes out of Court

Mediation by Chris Hahn can help resolve legalistic disputes in a manner that can facilitate constructive change and preserve working relationships. Dr. Hahn uses a classic style of mediation that helps the parties work directly together to determine their true needs. He likes to build on efforts by attorneys (when retained), therapists, and through other self-improvement endeavors.

In contrast, the in-Court adversarial system often involves damaging accusations, and then the Judge may rule in a way that pleases neither party. Some mediators use a shuttle mediation style that evaluates "what the Judge will probably say". Agreements made under these circumstances may be more satisfactory than a Judge's ruling, but some key opportunities might have been missed.

Chris carefully listens to the parties and helps to refine key interests. **An ideal outcome is a mutual agreement that provides a satisfying long-term result.**

Chris Hahn's Mediation Style

A relaxed and reassuring manner:

- ◇ Pre-mediation coaching and involvement when indicated
- ◇ Careful story telling and listening
- ◇ Non-threatening brainstorming
- ◇ Working together toward an agreement

As indicated on a case-by-case basis:

- ◇ Participation of one or more attorney
- ◇ Respect the active work of therapists
- ◇ Child interviews & Family Observations
- ◇ Research-based parenting information
- ◇ Review of financial documents

While it is not always possible, some mediations can be transformative. High-conflict disputes can be replaced with healthy working relationships. This allows the parties to move on with lives that are not hindered by the conflict.

Mediation by Dr. Hahn can help resolve issues related to divorce and separation, family businesses, parenting plans, property settlements, child support, and inheritances

Attorneys, therapists, counselors, individual parties, and others concerned with conflict resolution are invited to contact Dr. Hahn for a gratis initial discussion.

Dr. Hahn earned BA, MBA, and Ph.D. degrees. His Ph.D. in Human Services included all of the coursework necessary to become a marriage and family therapist. His dissertation research was on successful long-term joint physical custodies. He is a Certified Mediator through the Montana Mediation Association with Full and Family Designation and a member of the Board of the Community Mediation Center. He is the author of *Doing Qualitative Research Using Your Computer* (Sage Publications) and is currently involved with research about the effectiveness of Pre-Mediation Coaching.