
THE DIVORCE MEDIATOR

CENTER FOR DIVORCE MEDIATION & ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, INC.

10 WALL STREET • NORWALK, CONNECTICUT • (203) 854-9394 AND 847-3369
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MARITAL MEDIATION

KEEPS COUPLES TOGETHER

The Center encourages couples having trouble with marital issues to use mediation to reach a legal agreement addressing those issues, thereby strengthening the marriage. The couple jointly hires a member of the Center to act not as a lawyer or counselor for either, but as a mediator. During a series of meetings the couple works with the mediator to identify their issues and work out a mutually satisfactory plan to address them, including exchange of financial information and whatever sharing of responsibility they consider best for them. Both are free to consult with a lawyer, financial planner or other advisor at any time. The process is designed to help the couple strengthen their marriage by negotiating and then signing a legally enforceable contract.

Once an agreement is reached, the Center will write a draft of a Marital Mediation Agreement for each spouse to review with his or her legal advisor before signing. The Agreement may be enforced in various ways.

Marital Mediation works only if the couple is willing to make a good faith effort to reach agreement. There is no legal obligation to agree. Any commitment to mediation and to make the resulting agreement work comes voluntarily from the couple.

The process of negotiating and writing a legal agreement can change behavior in a couple's relationship. Creating personal solutions enhances marital satisfaction allowing the marriage to continue. Marital Mediation also leads to a reduction in marital conflict, helping children.

Contact us for more information about Marital Mediation.

CIVIL UNIONS

Connecticut has passed legislation allowing same-sex couples to enter into civil unions as of October 1, 2005. A person may enter into a civil union if that person is at least 18 years of age, is of the same sex as the other party to the civil union, is no more closely related to the other than first cousin and is not a party to another civil union or marriage. Civil union licenses are issued by the town clerk for the town in which the civil union is to be celebrated or the town in which either person to be joined in the civil union resides.

Connecticut residents who may legally enter into a civil union may celebrate their union in another state or foreign country as long as the person performing the civil union meets the Connecticut officiant required criteria.

(continued on other side)

December 2006

Dear Colleagues:

Happy Holidays!

The CENTER FOR DIVORCE MEDIATION & ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, INC. is pleased to send you this thirteenth issue of THE DIVORCE MEDIATOR.

The CENTER FOR DIVORCE MEDIATION & ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, INC. has developed this newsletter to share information and ideas related to Divorce Mediation. We want to share what we know as well as invite your questions, thoughts and comments. This exchange of ideas will allow us to continue to grow and learn from each other and better serve couples who have made the difficult decision to end their marriage.

**Mary G. Marcus, Wally Marcus, and
Deborah Noonan**

(Civil Unions continued from other side)

Those legally joined in a civil union have all the same benefits, protections and responsibilities under law that are granted to spouses in a marriage in categories such as state and municipal taxation, family leave benefits, hospital visitation and notification, state public assistance benefits, court privileges and others. Civil unions are not recognized under federal law and the rights civil unions afford are not transferable to most other states.

The law provides for group health and other benefits for government employees. They are not mandated of private sector employers.

Connecticut state divorce law applies to couples joined in a civil union. Some dissolution cases have already been filed. The Center is prepared for divorce mediation and marital mediation for civil unions. (see article on Marital Mediation on other side)

THE DIVORCE MEDIATORS

Mary G. Marcus, Ph.D. is a Clinical Psychologist who has had a private practice of individual, couples and family therapy for 26 years. She is an Advanced Practitioner Member of the Association for Conflict Resolution, former President of the Connecticut Council for Divorce Mediation and Family Dispute Resolution and current Board member, and a Board member of the Arizona Association for Conflict Resolution.

Wally Marcus is an attorney who has practiced Family Law for 34 years. He is an Advanced Practitioner Member of the Association for Conflict Resolution, former President of the Connecticut Council for Divorce Mediation and Family Dispute Resolution and current Board member, former Chair of the Connecticut Bar Association Divorce Mediation Committee, a member of the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section, and a member of the Alternative Dispute Section of the Connecticut Bar Association.

Deborah Noonan is an attorney who practices family law including mediation, collaborative divorce, and litigation. She is a Practitioner member of the Association for Conflict Resolution, a member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Council for Divorce Mediation and Family Dispute Resolution, and a member of the Family Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association.

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CDM ARIZONA OFFICE

The Center for Divorce Mediation & Alternative Dispute Resolution has a second office in Tucson, Arizona at 5215 N. Sabino Canyon Road, (520) 577-1202. We are working with clients in both Arizona and Connecticut.

EMAILED DIVORCE MEDIATOR

If you would like to receive an email version of the Divorce Mediator, please email us at Center@DivorceMediation.Norwalk.CT.US with the subject Email Divorce Mediator and your email address. We will send you the next issue of The Divorce Mediator in a PDF file readable with Adobe. Old issues are available at our website at www.DivorceMediation.Norwalk.CT.US and select the Newsletter button.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE TAX FOR 2007

The maximum social security wages in 2007 are \$97,500. There is no limit on the amount of wages subject to Medicare tax.

VIDEO MEDIATION

Occasionally our clients are away on business and are not available for an appointment in the office. We offer these clients an online video conference at no extra charge.

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