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Making divorce easier for all

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Divorce is not something that elicits positive feelings. The word alone evokes thoughts of two people, once caught in the throes of wedded bliss, facing life in a bloodthirsty duel, each fighting for their perceived share of what had a collective pie.

But one local couple is trying to flip the script through the art of mediation. Wally Marcus, an attorney, and his wife, Mary, a Ph.D. and clinical psychologist, have become experts in the field, founding the Center for Divorce Mediation & Alternative Dispute Resolution Inc. in Norwalk.

"We're an impartial facilitator for the couple," said Dr. Marcus. "Our job is to try to help couples talk and reach decisions on various issues that need to be resolved."

"Mediation is just more efficient," said Mr. Marcus. "Mediation is just using an attorney to help resolve the potential battles over children and finances. That type can be done in a much

quicker, more efficient and less expensive fashion through mediation."

Through mediation, communication will go much smoother because the partners are talking directly to each other, instead of being conveyed through two or more parties," added Mr. Marcus. "We also find many couples put children's needs ahead of the anger and disappointment in themselves through mediation. This is truly a family-friendly way of handling divorce."

But what is mediation? It is becoming a popular way to bring closure to a deteriorating situation, without the trauma that is most associated with simply employing attorneys in the process. Mediation is a cooperative problem solving process using impartial mediators to assist a divorcing couple reach an agreement on divisive issues, which can include splitting of assets and

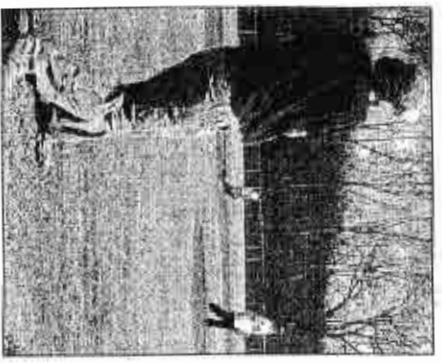
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Dr. Mary Marcus and her husband, attorney Wally Marcus, are working to make divorce a smoother experience for those couples parting ways.



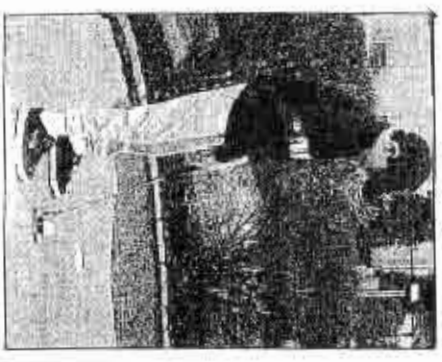
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Home field
Local builder Bob Walpuck made his baseball dreams a reality by building his own field.

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Fun for all
The Alcohol & Drug Awareness Program of Weston's fund-raiser will be at the Golf Center of Connecticut.

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