



Methods of Divorcing Include These Forms of Alternate Dispute Resolution:

Mediation. A trained, neutral mediator helps you and your partner reach agreements.

Arbitration. A trained, neutral arbitrator makes decisions for you on some or all of the issues you cannot agree on.

Mediation-Arbitration. A trained Mediator-Arbitrator begins by working with you as a Mediator, but if you cannot come to resolution, the Mediator becomes an Arbitrator and will make the decisions for you.

Settlement Conference. A legal professional (often a retired judge), assesses the legal aspects of your case and conducts a negotiation session between you and your partner.

Collaborative Law. Collaborative Law brings a team approach to divorce. The team consists of two attorneys, one for you and another for your partner, a neutral facilitator and a neutral financial expert, all collaboratively trained.

Divorcing?

Relationship

Ending?



What are your options?

You can work through divorce and parenting issues on your own or with an attorney. Alternatively, Here are other alternative dispute resolution (ADR) options:

Mediation

A mediator is a neutral third party trained to help you find common ground, reach agreement on the issues and help you complete forms you'll need to file with the Court.

The mediator:

- Meets informally (not in a courtroom) with you and your partner.
- Helps create a safe, confidential setting, where each of you can be heard.
- Clarifies substantive and emotional issues that may arise.
- Helps identify your needs and interests and those of your partner and children.
- Helps you create options that may satisfy those needs and interests.
- Helps you complete court forms and/or write your agreement for the divorce or separation.

Mediation is more informal and often less expensive than going to Court.

- You stay in charge of your decisions.
- If you have an attorney, you may ask him or her to participate in your mediation.
- The mediator, you, or your attorney can write your agreement.
- If you agree on some issues and not others you can fill out whatever forms you do agree on, and file those and a partial agreement with the Court. The Court will make decisions concerning the unresolved issues.

Learn more about individual mediators' qualifications, and find a list of mediators at the Mediation Association of Colorado web site (www.ColoradoMediation.org) or the Boulder County Bar Association (www.boulder-bar.org).

Arbitration

An arbitrator is a neutral third person who will make decisions for you on some or all of the issues that you and your partner cannot resolve yourselves.

- You and your partner present your arguments in person and/or in writing to the Arbitrator.
- The Arbitrator makes decisions for you, just as a judge would.

Arbitration is often less formal and quicker than going to Court, though you may choose to have your attorney present if you have one.

There is only a limited right to a Court rehearing or Court review of a binding arbitration decision. An Arbitrator's decision can be binding or advisory, you decide. Find more information about arbitration at the American Arbitration Association site, <https://www.adr.org/aaa/>.

Mediation–Arbitration (MED/ARB)

A trained Mediator–Arbitrator (Med/Arb), begins by working with you as a Mediator, but if you cannot come to resolution, the Mediator becomes an Arbitrator and will make the decisions for you.

Settlement Conference

An impartial legal professional (often a retired judge):

- Conducts a negotiation session between you and your partner.
- Evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of your positions.
- May advise about the law related to the dispute and may suggest a settlement, which you can accept or reject.
- May help you write your agreements.

Collaborative Law

Collaborative Law is a team approach to divorce. Divorces are financial, legal and emotional. The Collaborative team brings expertise to each of these areas to help you move forward in a positive manner.

The Collaboratively trained team includes:

- Two Collaboratively trained attorneys, one for you and one for your partner.
- A neutral Collaborative Divorce Facilitator (CDF) who facilitates clear communication, helps negotiate emotional and relational dynamics, promotes understanding between the participants, and manages the process.
- A neutral Financial Professional (FP) who will help you gather your court–required financial documents and work with you and your attorneys to brainstorm division scenarios that will allow you to preserve as much of your wealth, and meet as many of your financial goals, as possible.
- Other professionals (such as business evaluators, parenting experts etc.) may be brought in, with your permission, to help you make the most informed decisions possible.

The professional team works collaboratively and non–adversarially along with you to identify and meet both your needs and the needs of your children going forward. Many aspects of the Collaborative Divorce process can be done one–on–one with your jointly retained neutral professionals, minimizing the cost of the process.

To learn more visit the International Committee of Collaborative Professionals <https://www.collaborativepractice.com> or Boulder Collaborative Divorce Professionals: <http://www.collaborativedivorceboulder.org>.