

YOUR ADVOCATE

A Newsletter From The Law Offices of Eleanor Southers

Mediation: The Choice of the Future

Mediation — When you hear that word, most people think about the Dodgers, labor unions or the United Nations. Well, today, we're bringing mediation much closer to home. People are using this fascinating process to solve disputes among employers and employees, condominium owners/landlords and tenants, business owners, or just about anyone who is having difficulty reaching a solution when conflicts arise.

One of the largest areas of use is in family law mediation regarding spousal support, custody, child support, property settlement, etc. Former husbands and wives have found that it is not only a lot less expensive to use mediation, but it can literally save a family from being ripped apart by emotional upheaval of fighting divorce through our court system.

So what is mediation? Basically, it is a three step process. The mediator first facilitates in uncovering real conflicts and verbalizing the issues for the participants. Then the work begins. As the parties communicate their feelings, needs and wants in a supportive environment, the mediator assists the parties in reaching possible solutions by keeping the dialogue in the future. An agreement is written on the spot so everyone is clear about what needs to be done next.

Attorneys often participate in mediation along with their clients. A skilled mediator can utilize their expertise to the advantage of everyone.

Smart businesses have mediators on retainer, ready to step in while a dispute is still small. They also let their staff and employees know that this service is available to all of them. Hospitals and public entities are following suit with remarkable results and tremendous savings. Mediation is here to stay. Our courts are crowded and we all need a low cost alternative.

Try it, you'll like it!



Ms. Southers is a prominent personal injury and Workers' Compensation attorney. She is available for free consultations. You may call her at (831) 466-9132 if you are in an accident or are injured at work.

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