

# Mediator Interview Questionnaire

Provided by The Modern Woman's Divorce Guide ~ [www.moddivorce.com](http://www.moddivorce.com)

Ask these questions during mediator interviews to determine if the mediators are qualified to work with you.

## Conflict of Interest or Bias

1. Do you know or have a relationship with my husband? If so, please explain.
2. Do you know or have relationships with my husband's family or business partners? If so, please explain.
3. What are your opinions about divorce?
4. What are your opinions about child custody and visitation?
5. Is there any reason you cannot serve as a neutral mediator in our case?

## Experience and Practice

1. What is your educational background (e.g., undergraduate, graduate, doctorate)?
2. Are you a certified mediator? If so, by whom are you certified?
3. What were the requirements for becoming a certified mediator?
4. How many hours of mediation training do you have? By whom?
5. How many hours of divorce mediation training do you have? By whom?
6. Do you have any special training to resolve child development/parenting issues?
7. Do you have any special training to resolve domestic violence issues?
8. Do you have any special training to resolve financial and tax issues?
9. How long have you been a mediator?
10. How long have you been a divorce mediator?
11. Are you a lawyer? If yes, what percentage of your time is devoted to mediation?

12. If you aren't a family lawyer, do you have any family law education or training?
13. Are you familiar with the family laws in our state?
14. What percentage of your mediation practice is devoted to divorce mediation?
15. How many mediation matters or clients do you currently have?
16. What percentage of your cases are successfully and completely mediated?
17. What are your normal office hours?
18. How do you communicate with your clients during a case? How frequently?
19. What is your policy for returning telephone calls and e-mails?
20. What is your normal procedure for handling after-hours emergencies?
21. Do you provide clients with a written retainer agreement?
22. Can I sign a retainer agreement that states my financial responsibility is separate and distinct from my husband's financial responsibility to you?
23. Do you carry malpractice insurance?

## Mediation Process

1. What is the normal process for mediating a divorce case with children? Without children?
2. Do you have a particular mediation model you follow? If so, please explain.
3. What is your role in the mediation process?
4. How long do you estimate the mediation process will take?

5. How long is each mediation session?
6. Are mediation sessions confidential?
7. Do you meet with each person separately during the mediation process?
8. Are statements I make to you in separate meetings confidential?
9. Are statements my husband makes to you in separate meetings confidential?
10. Will you prepare a legally binding agreement at the end of our mediation?
11. If we don't successfully resolve our divorce in mediation, will you be called as a witness at trial?
12. Will you be the only mediator handling our case?
13. If another mediator will be involved, what are his/her qualifications?
14. How long have you worked with the other mediators?

advice from a licensed lawyer, doctor or therapist. Please consult a licensed lawyer, doctor or therapist who is familiar with your case and your state's laws.

## Fees and Payments

1. What is your hourly rate or fee per session?
2. If another mediator will be working with us, what is his/her hourly rate or fee per session?
3. Are there additional fees for providing written mediation agreements?
4. What is your retainer fee?
5. How much do you estimate it will cost to mediate our divorce?
6. Do you accept credit cards or monthly payments?
7. What happens if the retainer fee runs out before our divorce is successfully mediated?
8. What happens if we can't afford to pay you completely during the mediation process?
9. If my husband fails to pay his share of your bill, am I responsible for full payment?

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