

**GRESHAM FAMILY & BANKRUPTCY LAW**  
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## ESTIMATE OF MEDIATION/ LAWYER EXPENSES

Every client has a right to understand and manage the costs of their divorce. However, every Mediation matter is different as every family has different needs and issues, making it difficult to accurately estimate your costs without knowing your personal history. Some Mediation cases can be concluded with one initial consult and one joint sessions and others may require 4-5 joint sessions or more.

The factors that will impact the cost of your Mediation Process are:

- Willingness and ability of the parties to negotiate fairly and efficiently with each other;
- The level of conflict and communication problems;
- Complexity and Emotionality of Parenting Issues (if there are children);
- Size and Sophistication of the Financial Estate and ability and willingness to disclose assets and liabilities;
- Ease of Scheduling and Willingness to Listen and understand the mediator’s guidance. Remember the mediator is neutral and does not represent either of you, but understands the Family Law statutes and the requirements of the Court.

The following is an estimate of costs is based on averages and upon my experience. The estimate should also give you an overview of the structure of the Mediation Process. Remember: These are only ranges and your situation may be very different.

PROCESS	TIME
Initial Consultation with Client	1 hour (\$150 flat fee)
Joint Meetings: 1-2 Hours Each Session Average 1-3-5 Sessions	Hourly Rate (\$300.00)  Average time per session (1-2 hrs)
Identify issues to be resolved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property/debt division</li> <li>• Spousal support</li> <li>• Child support/parenting time</li> <li>• Miscellaneous concerns</li> </ul>	Typically one session for each issue at hourly rate

Estimate of Costs - Mediation

Prepare parenting plan and child support 1+2 hours	May use Family Court Services or resolve with assistance of the mediator. May also hire a child specialist to resolve this question.
Gather documents and Prepare Clients for Joint Meetings Prepare Financial Disclosures	1-3- Hours in addition to meetings Each party will acknowledge they have had full access to information of the other party such as retirement accounts, bank accounts and debts incurred during the marriage to name a few.
<u>Average cost to reach agreement</u> This is different for each couple based on their specific concerns	\$900 - \$2,100 (3 to 7 hours)
Remember, you are in control of the time needed to resolve your issues. This estimate is based on parties willing to work together and resolve the outstanding issues.	
<b>DOCUMENT FEES</b>	
Prepare Petition and Final Court Documents These will be prepared for your specific circumstances and customized to your family's needs. Child support calculations, parenting plans, spousal support, division of assets (such as retirement of sale of a home) and division of liabilities will determine the complexity of your documents and the expense.	Flat rate - \$1950 to \$2750.
Coaching if using Oregon Department of Justice forms	1 - 3 hours (\$300-\$900)
COURT FILING FEE	\$301 (set by the court)
QDRO (transferring interest in retirements)	\$500-\$600 per order This is through an outside attorney

This explanation should give you a way to estimate your own expenses related to your divorce; however, please discuss this in detail with your mediator/attorney. You are not required to “appear” in court but you do not have your own attorney.