

# BETH G. REINEKE, ESQUIRE

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SUPREME CT. CERT FAMILY MEDIATOR  
BD. CERTIFIED FAMILY LITIGATOR (2000-2015)

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July 6, 2023

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for contacting me about pre-suit family mediation. If you and your spouse decide to go forward with your divorce, I think you are wise to consider mediating before filing for divorce rather than immediately retaining litigators to file a contested divorce action. Litigation is much more stressful and time consuming, and very costly.

## **The Role of a Mediator**

I am a Family Law Lawyer with over 25 years of litigation experience. However, when I am working as a Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator I am a neutral third party. I do not represent you or your spouse during mediation, I do not take sides and I do not, and will not give either of you any legal advice. My role as your neutral mediator is (1) to facilitate discussion of the various issues related to your separation and divorce, and (2) when an agreement is reached, to incorporate your verbal agreement into a written formal agreement so you can file an uncontested divorce.

## **Fees for Mediation Services**

I charge \$300.00 per hour for Mediation Services, which includes the time spent with you in mediation, time spent drafting agreements and court documents, and the time spent with you during your final mediation session to review, revise and finalize your agreements and all of the other documents necessary to file and obtain your divorce. Instead of requiring a large retainer to be paid in advance, payment for each mediation session is made at the conclusion of each session. A prepaid deposit is only required once you and your spouse have reached an agreement based upon the amount of time estimated for drafting your agreements and court documents.

## **Mediation Services**

Mediation sessions are scheduled for a minimum of 2 hours. During mediation I will assist each of you in preparing the financial affidavits required by the court. If you have children, I will calculate child support for you based on the Florida Child Support Guidelines. If alimony or temporary support is an issue, I can prepare financial schedules applicable to various alimony scenarios, showing the interplay between alimony and child support. I will also answer any procedural questions you and your spouse may have about the formal documents which will need to be prepared and filed with the court for an uncontested divorce.

Once you and your spouse reach a settlement, I will draft your Marital Settlement Agreement and Parenting Plan (if applicable) and prepare all the court documents each of you will need to sign and file with the court in order to obtain your divorce. The only additional items you will need are individual financial affidavits (one completed by each of you) and, if you have children, a certificate showing you have each completed a court approved parenting course. Blank financial affidavit forms and information concerning court approved parenting classes are available on the “Links” page of my website - [www.bethreineke.com](http://www.bethreineke.com).

### **Scheduling Mediation**

When you are ready to schedule your mediation you may schedule online from the links page of my website - <https://www.bethreineke.com/links/>. If this hot link does not work, please go to my web page [www.bethreineke.com](http://www.bethreineke.com) and click on scheduling. My morning mediation sessions begin at 9:30 am and my afternoon sessions usually begin at 1:30 pm. Mediation sessions are set in two-hour blocks of time.

If you or your spouse has additional questions regarding family mediation services, please call.

Sincerely,  
Beth Gilmore Reineke

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