

# Family Law Mediation

## Attorneys

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## Overview

Many couples begin mediation believing that goodwill alone will carry them through negotiations over custody, support, and property division. That assumption often stalls progress before it starts. Family law mediation is not a casual conversation between two people who happen to agree. It is a structured negotiation that requires preparation, financial transparency, and a clear understanding of each party's legal rights under Massachusetts law. Without that foundation, mediated agreements can be incomplete, unenforceable, or financially one-sided.

Cohen Cleary provides family law mediation services for divorcing couples and separated parents across Massachusetts and Rhode Island. From our offices in [Taunton](#) and [Plymouth](#), we help families resolve disputes over child custody, support, alimony, and property division through a process designed to produce durable agreements without the cost and conflict of courtroom litigation.

## How Our Family Law Mediators Help Resolve Disputes

Our family law mediators work with both parties to identify the issues that need resolution, facilitate productive discussion, and guide the negotiation toward an agreement that reflects each party's priorities. The mediator serves as a neutral facilitator, not an advocate for either side. This distinction matters: a mediator does not give legal advice to either party, which is why we encourage both participants to retain independent consulting attorneys who can review proposals and provide guidance outside the mediation sessions.

Mediation is effective for a range of family law disputes: initial divorce agreements, child custody mediation and parenting plan development, child support and alimony calculations, and post-divorce modifications when circumstances change. It is not appropriate in every situation. Cases involving domestic violence, significant power imbalances, or deliberate financial concealment may require the protections that only the litigation process provides.

When mediation produces an agreement, the terms are documented in a written settlement that both parties sign. In Massachusetts, this agreement is then submitted to the Probate and Family Court for approval and incorporation into a court order, making it fully enforceable. The result is a binding legal document created on your terms, not a judge's.

## Why Clients Choose Cohen Cleary's Family Law Mediators

At Cohen Cleary, our practice teams combine deep subject-matter experience with disciplined execution and responsive client service. We do not take a one-size-fits-all approach. Every matter is handled with careful preparation, clear communication, and a strategy tailored to the client's goals and the realities of the forum.

Clients choose Cohen Cleary because we deliver:

### Practice-Focused Legal Experience

Our attorneys work in defined practice areas, allowing us to develop practical insight into the legal, procedural, and regulatory nuances that matter most in each case. This focus allows us to anticipate issues, avoid unnecessary delays, and position matters for efficient resolution.

### Clear Guidance and Proactive Communication

We prioritize clarity at every stage. Clients receive straightforward explanations of their options, timely updates on developments, and practical advice grounded in real-world outcomes.

### Strategic Advocacy with Trial Readiness

Whether a matter calls for negotiation, mediation, or litigation, our attorneys prepare every case with discipline and foresight. We pursue efficient resolution when possible and are fully prepared to advocate aggressively when necessary to protect our clients' interests.

### Regional Knowledge and Local Presence

With offices throughout Massachusetts and experience across New England courts and agencies, we bring local insight and regional reach to every matter.

### Client-Centered Service

We treat every matter with urgency and respect. Our clients rely on us for responsive service, sound judgment, and steady counsel through complex legal challenges.

In our family law mediation work, this approach helps clients navigate custody, support, and property disputes with clarity, efficiency, and confidence.

## Our Approach to Custody Mediation and Divorce Resolution

Every mediation begins with individual intake sessions. We meet separately with each party to understand their priorities, concerns, and any dynamics that could affect the negotiation. This preparation allows the mediator to structure sessions that address the most contentious issues methodically rather than allowing emotions to drive the agenda. For families with children, we focus particular attention on developing parenting plans that account for school schedules, developmental needs, and the practical realities of co-parenting across two households. In appropriate cases, we offer child-inclusive mediation, where a qualified child specialist meets with the children separately and communicates their perspective to the mediator. This allows children's needs and adjustment concerns to inform the agreement without placing them in the middle of their parents' negotiation. Sessions are typically scheduled in our [Taunton](#) or [Plymouth](#) offices, though remote participation is available when logistics require it.

## Serving Families Across Massachusetts and Rhode Island

Cohen Cleary provides family law mediation services from offices in [Taunton](#) and [Plymouth](#), serving families across southeastern Massachusetts, Bristol County, Plymouth County, and Norfolk County. Our mediators are familiar with the procedures and filing requirements of the Massachusetts Probate and Family Court divisions in these regions, which allows us to draft mediated agreements that meet the specific standards required for court approval. We also

serve clients throughout Rhode Island, with the capacity to assist families across New England.

## Schedule a Consultation With a Massachusetts Family Law Mediation Attorney

If you are considering mediation for a divorce, custody dispute, or support disagreement, contact Cohen Cleary to discuss your options. Our attorneys can help you evaluate whether mediation is appropriate for your situation and explain what the process requires. Schedule a consultation through our [Taunton](#) or [Plymouth](#) office.

## Frequently Asked Questions About Family Law Mediation

### How much does divorce mediation cost compared to litigation?

Mediation typically costs significantly less than litigated divorce because it reduces court appearances, discovery disputes, and attorney preparation hours. The total cost depends on the complexity of the issues and the number of sessions required. Most family law mediations resolve within four to eight sessions, though cases involving complex asset division or contested custody arrangements may require additional time.

### Can I have my own attorney during mediation?

Yes, and we strongly encourage it. While the mediator is neutral and does not represent either party, each participant benefits from having a consulting attorney who can review proposals, explain legal rights, and ensure the final agreement protects their interests. Your consulting attorney does not attend mediation sessions but is available between sessions to provide independent legal advice.

### Is a mediated divorce agreement legally binding in Massachusetts?

A mediated agreement becomes legally binding once both parties sign it and the Massachusetts Probate and Family Court approves and incorporates it into a court order. Until that point, the agreement is a negotiated document. Our mediators draft agreements with the specificity and completeness the court requires, reducing the risk of rejection or the need for modification at the approval stage.

### What happens if mediation does not produce a complete agreement?

If mediation does not resolve all issues, the process remains confidential. Nothing disclosed during mediation can be used in subsequent court proceedings. Partial agreements are common: many couples resolve some issues through mediation while litigating the remaining disputes. The confidentiality protection means there is no strategic downside to attempting mediation first.