

# MEDIATION

Attorney Nadine A. Brown is available for private mediations and has taken a rigorous training course provided by Perry Itkin, Esquire a Supreme Court of Florida certified provider at the Dispute Resolution Inc. Although Attorney Brown is otherwise knowledgeable in the area of Marital and Family Law, in acting as a Mediator in any marital or family law case, she will remain neutral and impartial in the context of the mediation.

Mediation is an alternate method of dispute resolution. It may be occur **PRIOR** to litigation (filing a lawsuit), **DURING** litigation in an attempt to resolve issues prior to final hearing, may be court ordered to encourage settlement, or may occur **POST** litigation to avoid re-litigation of certain unresolved or new issues. Mediation is **VOLUNTARY**. It provides **FLEXIBILITY** for the parties to help develop **SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENTS** to which they intend to be bound. Mediation is **CONFIDENTIAL** for all parties involved unless disclosure is required or permitted by law. Mediation involves a process of **PROBLEM SOLVING** directed negotiation through the use of an **IMPARTIAL THIRD PERSON** who is neutral and who has no stake in the outcome of the agreement or case.

If Mediation is court ordered the mediator will complete a brief report stating whether or not an agreement was reached and attach a copy of the agreement to the report for submission to the court. This agreement will be included in the court record. The parties may consult with attorneys prior to signing a mediated settlement agreement and may have attorneys present during mediation.

Mediations may occur through the Judicial Circuit Court mediation department, as done with a court ordered mediation, or the parties may elect **PRIVATE MEDIATION** with a Mediator. A mediator may be trained in mediation, but does not necessarily have to be certified or licensed by the Supreme Court in order to conduct mediations. Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediators have, in addition to required training, mentorship credits or continuing education credits achieved through observations or co-mediations and are registered with the Dispute Resolution Center in Tallahassee, Florida.