



HOW TO GET PREPARED For YOUR FIRST Divorce Mediation Telephone Consultation

Janet Miller Wiseman Mediation Services

Hello and welcome. Here are directions for making your first phone call with us efficient and informative.

1. Select MENU, with three dots overhead, on the upper right side of www.mediationboston.org.
2. Go to MEDIATION
3. Go to DIVORCE
4. Page down and read as much as you are able to absorb. Go to paragraphs with the purple lettering.
5. If you earn less than \$75,000, pull up and print the 401 Financial Statement Short-Form; if you earn more, print the Long-Form. If you are self-employed, or have rental properties add those forms. Under DOCS, pull up and print Mediation Financial Questionnaire. You'll be filling out the first 4 pages.
6. Under DOCS, you'll find the 2020 RATE Sheet, the FEE schedule.
7. Under DOCS you'll find Divorce Mediation Checklist. We'll have that in front of us to discuss what you both agree to and we'll mediate the differences in opinions to settlement. Answers to these questions go into your 30 Page Divorce/Separation Agreement in the form of Exhibits, for example "Exhibit A: Parenting Plan".
8. If you have children, you'll want to look at the child-support worksheet. To calculate, we like to use the one under "tools" at the Skylark Law website.
9. If you're ambitious, under Divorce Mediation, in the purple-headed paragraphs: Chapter 208, section 32 that describes how Judges are likely to look at Division of your property; and Chapter 208, sections 44-48 which talk about alimony/spousal maintenance. Formula for alimony is after child support is calculated, subtracted from the payor's gross income, added to recipient's income (for those making over \$250,000 jointly), recipient's income is subtracted from payor's income, and generally multiplied by 32% (30-35) percent. Then it's adjusted by federal, state taxes, medicare and F.I.C.A. payments.
10. All of the above is NOT NECESSARY to do before a first phone call, but gives you "a leg up" in understanding the divorce mediation process which often is 2-3 two hour meetings by video-conference, then 4-9 hours of drafting your court-ready Separation Agreement for review by your review/advisory attorney. See the 2020 RATE SHEET for graduated fees allowing retirees and couples starting out to afford the divorce mediation process.