



The Toby Center
 Preserving Family Ties When Parents Choose to Separate™



**Conflict Resolution Options:
 Family Mediation and Parent Coordination**

The most valuable means to facilitate co-parenting according to the parents' own desires is to use Family Mediation and Parent Coordination. These have become the most helpful means for parents to determine their own desired co-parenting priorities, style and relationship. It will benefit all parties to complete a parenting agreement without a Judge making such determination which may not reflect the priorities of the parents.

Family Mediation - Mediation is a wonderful opportunity for both parents together to create a parenting road map when they will not live together. Mediation is a facilitated process with a skilled, experienced and mindful family mediator who will assist both parents to express their concerns and wishes for their children as they craft a joint parenting agreement. This is a wonderful process for parents who also live together and wish they and their children understand and take responsibilities for the betterment of the family unit. The Toby Center will only mediate parties who have no attorney representation also referred to as PRO SE. The State of Florida mandates at least one hour of mediation to attempt a co-parenting agreement for child rearing and child custody before coming to Court for further assistance. Completed agreements should be reviewed by an attorney prior to submission to the Court.

Parent Coordination When the child rearing differences between the parents are great, where the parents are unwilling to compromise; where one parent is bullied; all possibilities within mediation, then Parent Coordination is a process to break the intransience. Parent Coordination permits the facilitator to act more as a coach, guard, and instructor for the parents in their challenges to reach an agreement for co-parenting. It is quite a visceral, soul searching and very emotional process for those who obstruct the means to agreement.

Fees: Fees are on sliding scale based on total family income and must be prepaid.

| Reported Income | Fees |
|---------------------|----------------|
| above \$80,000 | \$275 per hour |
| \$60,000 - \$79,999 | \$225 per hour |
| \$50,000 - \$59,999 | \$175 per hour |
| \$40,000 - \$49,999 | \$125 per hour |
| Less than \$39,000 | \$110 per hour |

Mediation Fee Requirements: Retainer of \$900 required prior to scheduling first appointment. Additional hours will be billed per session and session fees must be paid in full before continuing further sessions. Payment in full required for hours prior to mediator providing the final mediated Parenting Plan and/or MSA (Marriage Settlement Agreement).

Parenting Coordination Requirements: Retainer of \$1500 required prior to scheduling first appointment. As hourly fees accumulate, retainer will be expended and coordinator or Toby Center will notify client of additional funds due to continue the services.

Additional fees may be required, i.e., for background research, documentation preparation, phone conversations with all parties, their representatives and family professionals including therapists, GAL, law enforcement, case managers, and necessary others.

The Toby Center for Family Transitions, Inc.

Serving Florida's families since 2008

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