**TIPS ON THE MEDIATION PROCESS**

1. **Ask for the right mediator**. If you are mediating custody a therapist may be a more appropriate mediator than an attorney. If you are mediating financial issues make sure you get an experienced attorney as your mediator.
2. **Get referrals.** The personality of the mediator has a lot to do with the success of the mediation.
3. **Consult with your attorney first**. A consultation with an attorney first will give you an understanding of the actual court process, what to expect, and the attorney should be able to put you at ease in terms of issues that may come up during mediation.
4. **Do your homework before you go in**. Think about your answers to these questions:
5. What do I want to achieve? What does the other side want to achieve?
6. What are the key issues?
7. What are the stumbling blocks keeping you and/or the other side from resolving the issues?
8. Do I have an interest in maintaining any relationship with the other party after this is over?
9. Are there other parties that I will have to account/explain any agreement reached to? What about the other party? How will this affect any potential agreement?
10. **If you are given homework do your homework before mediating again**. If the mediator suggests talking to a realtor, CPA or your own attorney make sure you do those things before coming back for an additional mediation session.
11. **It’s okay to yell, scream and cry in mediation**.
12. **Consider mediating early and often**. Mediation isn’t just for the divorce but also for post-divorce issues. Don’t assume that you will be able to resolve your differences in just one mediation session.
13. **Make your attorney prepare you for mediation**. Find out what to expect, what documents to take with you, and your attorney’s opinion on the areas in dispute before you go to mediation.
14. **Sit in the same room until you can’t any longer**.
15. **Don’t be afraid to say I need some time to think about that**.