

# Mediation Overview

Thank you for considering Birt Family Law & Restorative Divorce®. Mediation provides a respectful, cost-effective way to resolve family law matters outside of court. Below is an overview of my qualifications, services, and next steps.

## **Why Choose Mediation with Erin Birt?**

- 23+ years of family law and mediation experience.
- Creator of the Restorative Divorce® process.
- Author of books and educational resources for families.
- Board Member, Mediation Council of Illinois.
- Adjunct Faculty, Northwestern University Divorce Mediation Program.
- Certified Alcohol and Other Drug Counselor & Parenting Coordinator.
- Integrates legal, conflict resolution, substance use, and co-parenting expertise.

## **Mediation Services**

- *Flat Fee or Hourly Options:* Choose the approach that best fits your needs.
- *Flexible Scheduling:* Weekly or bi-weekly sessions available in person or by Zoom.
- *Structured Guidance:* Agendas, workbooks, progress summaries, and draft agreements keep the process moving forward.
- *Personalized Support:* Referrals to trusted financial, mental health, and other professionals when additional expertise may be helpful.
- *Attorney Participation:* Attorneys are welcome throughout the process but are not required.

## **Fees & Payment Options**

- *Flat Fee Mediation Packages:* Transparent pricing designed to reduce uncertainty and often significantly less than traditional litigation.
- *Hourly Mediation:* \$400 per hour (\$200 per person when shared equally).
- *Financing Available:* Flexible payment options through ClientCredit.

## **Getting Started – 4 Easy Steps**

### **1. Complimentary 15-Minute Introduction Call**

*A free 15-minute conversation to determine whether mediation is a good fit.*

### **2. Personalized Planning Session (Optional)**

*If you'd like additional guidance before beginning mediation, schedule a personalized 30-minute planning session (\$200) to discuss your goals and determine the best path forward.*

### **3. Mediation Agreement**

*Review and sign the mediation agreement electronically.*

### **4. Begin Mediation**

*Schedule sessions that work for your family and begin building agreements together.*





# Your Path Forward

Every family is unique. Erin's structured Restorative Divorce® mediation process provides education, practical tools, and a proven path from your first conversation through your final agreement.

- **FREE INTRO CALL WITH ERIN**

A complimentary 15-min call with Erin to determine whether mediation is the right fit.

- **OPTIONAL PLANNING SESSION**

A 30-minute session for clients who would like additional guidance before beginning mediation.

- **MEDIATION SERVICE AGREEMENT**

Review and electronically sign the mediation agreement before scheduling sessions.

- **INDIVIDUAL SESSION WITH MEDIATOR ERIN BIRT**

Each party may meet individually w/ Erin to discuss goals, concerns, and explore mediation process

- **ONGOING MEDIATION SESSIONS**

Depending on needs, continue with individual or joint sessions with Erin Birt

- **JOINT SESSION TO CONFIRM FINAL AGREEMENTS**

Meet jointly with Erin to finalize and confirm agreements reached during mediation

- **ORGANIZED PROCESS**

Receive agendas, educational resources, progress summaries.

- **FINAL AGREEMENT & COURT PROCESS**

Erin prepares your final agreement and explains the remaining steps to complete your divorce or parenting matter.

- **MY GOAL**

To use a time-tested, structured approach outside the traditional court process so my clients can make thoughtful decisions, reach lasting agreements, and move forward in weeks instead of months or years.

~ Erin Birt

