

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Litigation</b>	<b>Mediation</b>	<b>Benefits of mediation</b>
Time Period	Lengthy	Short	Avoids delays; participants can get on with their lives
Total Cost	Very Expensive	Inexpensive	Higher satisfaction; less financial stress
Confidentiality	Public records	Confidential	Avoids negative publicity
Decision-making	Left to the court	In the hands of participants	Greater commitment to follow-through; greater sense of "fairness" by participants
Communication	By attorneys	By the parties	Clarity; may improve long-term relationship
Agenda	Set by the court	Set by the parties	Participants feel greater sense of control
Emotions	Often ignored	Considered	Greater satisfaction with result
Control	By attorneys and the court	By the parties	Participant may end mediation at any time; participants feel empowered
Compliance	Unknown	High	Less chance of re-litigation