

## DPR's Family Law Deposit Policy

During our many years of mediating Family Law issues, we have come to believe that the following things are usually true: (1) Divorce costs more than anyone wants to pay, but it is less expensive when resolution is achieved through mediation rather than imposed by a Court; (2) It is more effective for everyone concerned to use a deposit system ("the lawyer model") than to ask you to write a check on your way out after every meeting ("the doctor model"), and (3) It is virtually impossible to predict ahead of time the "average" length of a particular mediation.

Based on our experience, we request an initial deposit (usually paid one-half by each party) which we believe will be adequate to cover the mediator's initial meetings with the attorneys; review of important material (such as financial statements, position statements, any offers or expert reports that exist, *etc.*); and approximately 15-20 hours for mediation meetings, conferences with the parties and/or their attorneys, and additional study time.

It is our *hope* that will be sufficient time to reach a satisfactory resolution of all issues. If it takes less time, you will, of course, receive a refund of all unused deposit amounts. Mediation works to help reach agreement in over 90% of all cases. In the unusual case, in which it becomes clear early on that the process stands no chance of success, we will tell you as soon as possible so that no-one's time and money are wasted.

Each case is different, and some cases take longer to resolve. Issues may be more complex than first thought, and sometimes it simply takes time for one person or both to deal with moving through the divorce passage and reaching agreement in a manner that allows you to regard each other with dignity and civility for the future. In those cases, when the initial deposit has been substantially drawn down and it is obvious that more time is needed, we will request that the deposit be at least partly refreshed.

Please feel free to ask your case administrator questions about our deposit policy at any time, and ***please be assured that our goal, like yours, and our commitment to you, is to make this process cost-effective for you in reaching an agreement that is economically feasible, legally appropriate, and personally acceptable.***

