

	Lawyer Driven Divorce (Adversarial)	Mediation (Less Confrontational)
Cost	Extremely costly, especially if the divorce ends up in litigation	Affordable
Time	18 months – 3 years or more	2 – 6 months on average
Emotional Capital	A lawyer-driven divorce, especially litigation, is an adversarial process and not peaceful in any way.	The mediation process is non-adversarial and cooperative so it's more peaceful to work with a mediator vs lawyer divorce which is often confrontational and hostile.
Holistic Approach to your wellbeing	Often just touch on the basics needed to sign off a settlement	It is a more comprehensive and holistic parenting plan that will assist to lesson conflict in future
Professionals Involved	2 lawyers	1 mediator
Outcome	A lawyer can only represent one party and their job is to advocate or “fight” for their one client. Even if it's at the detriment of the other party or the couple's children	A mediator is a neutral third party and doesn't take sides – in the divorce mediation process, they help <i>both</i> spouses reach an agreement best for them and their <i>children</i>
Advice	Lawyers often tell clients what to do	Mediators help to empower clients to decide what to do themselves
Risk	<p>A lawyer-driven divorce has no guarantees as you are at the mercy of a judge and the court.</p> <p>The reality is that the law is at best a canonization of public policy statements by the legislature of the appellate courts, made as generalizations which cannot anticipate the specific application to the unique circumstances of each individuals marriage.</p> <p>Some lawyers use strategies to confuse, manipulate or outsmart the opposition. Every lawyer has their own approach but some family law attorneys can be deceptive and use moral tactics that is not necessarily rational. Remember that you know your situation, family and children better than any lawyer so it is best to be part of the decision making.</p> <p>If your case goes to trial and the judge makes their decision, you could find that you're not satisfied with the ruling in your divorce case</p>	
Confidentiality	Matter of public record	Private and confidential