

OUTLINE OF THE PROCESS

1. Understand and Agree to the Process
 - a. Review and sign the participation agreement(s)
 - b. Review and agree to ground rules

2. Discuss Interests and Goals
 - a. What concerns/ fears/ hopes do you have about how this will be resolved?
 - b. Test for communicating your needs effectively:
 1. By the way you are saying it, is there more than one way to meet your need?
 2. Is this need significant to you?
 3. Is your idea on how to meet your need tangible/ achievable?
 4. Can the need be described as a benefit to you and not as a detriment to your spouse?

3. Discuss Interim Issues:
 - a. Parenting Issues
 - b. Temporary financial issues
 - c. Payment of professionals
 - d. Preservation of assets

4. Gather Information
 - a. Decide what information is needed
 - b. Assign information to gather
 - c. Review shared information
 - d. Work through differences

5. Creatively Problem-Solve
 - a. Identify issues
 - b. Brainstorm options
 - c. Evaluate outcomes of each option

6. Negotiate Agreement
 - a. Compare expected outcomes of each option to parties' stated goals
 - b. Eliminate options that have outcomes that do not sufficiently meet important goals of either party
 - c. Narrow the options to those that meet the most important goals of both parties
 - d. Jointly determine the option that most closely meets the most important goals of both parties

7. Finalize Agreement