# **OVERVIEW - OF ALL OPTIONS**

The best process for you balances, not only <u>cost</u>, but <u>who's in control</u> of the decisions and how much <u>help</u> you'll need.

The final judgment must be <u>entered by the Court</u> no matter which option you choose.

SEE OUR DECISION-MAKING CHART FOR A TOPIC-BY-TOPIC COMPARISON OF THESE OPTIONS.



## STREAMLINE DIVORCE<sup>SM</sup>

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- Spouses write up their own agreement
- Parties remain in control of decisions
- Parties should have an amicable settlement in mind or be able to agree on their divorce issues using easy to follow forms
- NOT suitable for complex issues



#### **MEDIATION**

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- Spouses reach agreement guided by mediator
- Parties remain in control of decisions
- Parties who want step-by-step guidance or disagree on some issues and need neutral help to explore options and reach resolution
- More creative options are possible (and encouraged)



### **COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE**

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- Attorneys and Parties work together collaboratively out of court to Reach a Resolution
- Experts are brought in as needed (i.e. Mediators, financial experts, mental health professionals, etc.)
- Requires full disclosure and involves mutual and informed decision-making



### TRADITIONAL CASE (COURT-BASED) \$\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$\$

- A Decision May Be Imposed on You
- Uncertainty: Judges' perspectives and interpretations of law are not always predictable or uniform
- Lack of Control: The Court is now in control of your case and making decisions regarding you, your children, and your property
- Time Frame: Mandatory scheduled court dates and possibility of appeal
- May be the only option if other party is unreasonable, dangerous or won't voluntarily participate or disclose information or if your spouse has not been informed you are considering divorce



#### LIMITED SCOPE REPRESENTATION \$-\$\$\$\$

- Hourly Services
- PLANNING: Pre-Filing planning, documentation & understanding range of possible outcomes
- ADVICE: Consultation to answer legal questions regarding family law
- DRAFTING: Documents, court orders and/or required forms
- COURT DATES: Limited issue court appearances are possible