

CLIENT INTAKE ROLE PLAY #1

You are seeking a divorce and your attorney suggested mediation. You have two children and have always worked outside the home during your marriage. Your income is about equal to your husband's.

During your twenty (20) year marriage, you and your husband, Roger, rarely argued. But then again you rarely talked either. You led separate lives with work and activities and you primarily raised your two children, Daniel, age 16, and Beth, age 14. You have felt very unappreciated as a wife and mother during the marriage. You are forty-five (45) years old now and beginning to realize that you are missing something in your life and want more than just co-existence. Soon the children will be grown and on their own and you can't see your relationship with him improving. You know he is hurt that you want a divorce and you feel guilty that you are the one "breaking up the family", which is what Roger tells you everyday. The biggest issue seems to be who will stay in the house with the children.

About a month ago, when you first told him you wanted a divorce, he became very angry and accused you of being "selfish." He gave you the "silent treatment" for about a week. Then you brought the subject up again, thinking that some decisions needed to be made. When you tried to discuss things with him, he suddenly got up from the chair across from you and slapped you across the face. This had never happened before and you were shocked. He left the house that night to stay with friends. You are embarrassed and guilty that you "made him" act that way. The two of you have not talked since that time about the divorce and you believe it is time to make some decisions. He has come to pick up the children for parenting time, but he calls them while you are at work and they are old enough to go out to the car by themselves, so there has been no conversation between you since he left that night.

You have heard that mediation is easier and less expensive than the court process and you would like to give it a try.