



IDEAL Mediation Inc. Independent Legal Advice Conversations

The role of the mediator is to be neutral and maintain a constructive atmosphere for discussion between the parties to help them resolve their dispute.

Mediators are not lawyers and do not provide legal advice.

Clients of IDEAL Mediation Inc. are encouraged contact a lawyer should they have any legal questions about their dispute. Advice from a lawyer outside the mediation process is necessary to ensure all parties know and understand their legal rights and responsibilities. This enables the parties to negotiate from their best position, avoid feeling duped and increases the follow through on the solution reached.

At IDEAL Mediation Inc., all Memorandum of Understandings must be reviewed by each parties' own lawyer prior to being signed as a legal document.

Point to discuss with legal council:

Does the lawyer support the mediation process?

Is the lawyer willing to provide legal advice before and during the mediation process?

Is the lawyer willing to sign a "limited retainer" for the purpose of providing independent legal advice **without** preparing for litigation?

What are my legal right?

What are my legal responsibilities?

How do I make the mediator's Memorandum of Understanding into a legal document?

How often do similar cases go before a judge?

What should I keep in mind while I am working through the mediation process?

What is the difference between child custody, access and primary residence?

Who is entitled to receive support payments and for how long?

Who keeps what property?