

LONG ISLAND WOMAN

What About The Children

July 2010

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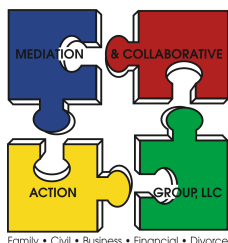
As common as it is today, when Divorce occurs it's a family crisis. Parents find themselves caught between two distinct worlds: the world of adults (their own needs) and that of the needs of their children.

Children find separation and divorce a confusing, upsetting experience. The Mediation and Collaborative process offers divorcing couples the opportunity to focus on their child's needs and prospective. These children still have the same needs that all children have: to feel secure, loved and protected. It's crucial for parents to make a conscious decision to put their children's needs **above** their own. Most experts agree that children adjust better and have a happier future when both parents play an active role in their lives and avoid putting the children in the middle of personal feelings and conflicts.

If you've decided to separate or divorce and have children, your next important decision should be about co-parenting. Setting up a co-parenting "partnership" is part of the joint custody agreement and mandatory in the divorce process. If parents cannot cooperate with each other, the state will step in to make decisions.

Co-parenting means sharing parenting responsibilities while living in separate households. A good parenting plan has to be fair and practical, taking into consideration each parent's strengths and availability. There is no "wrong" or "right" parenting plan. Each family is unique; developing a parenting plan that works depends on what's comfortable for both parents.

For additional information, contact Mediation & Collaborative Action Group.



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