



## *What's Next?*

### **Family Conflict**

You successfully worked out the issues you brought here and would like to know what you can do next. We want to help.

In a perfect world you would have an affordable lawyer to give you legal advice and help you with this step. In reality, we know many clients don't. This document, which doesn't substitute for that advice, is meant to help you with next steps.

### ***Do we have to get a Court Order or Separation Agreement?***

Many people simply follow their Mediation Report. Sometimes you need a more formal Agreement or you want to also get divorced. Reasons that you would need that include wanting to deduct spousal support for income tax purposes or needing to document your separation for a Bank. Others want to make sure the other person doesn't change their mind.

### ***How do we get a "Separation Agreement"?***

In Ontario, you are permitted to draft your own "Separation Agreement", which is a document in writing that is witnessed and not obtained under duress or pressure or without full disclosure and understanding of what each partner has. Often and ideally these are prepared by lawyers but they are not "illegal" if they are done by you alone. Therefore, some people will amend their own Mediation Report, or re-type it, into a "Separation Agreement". The important feature is signatures being witnessed by a competent adult who can ideally attest to the fact that you were aware what you were doing.

### ***How do we get a Divorce?***

In Ontario you are now able to do the forms for a divorce together and then also file it online. There are two steps, written below.

**Step One:** Fill out joint application for divorce only on the following link:

<https://stepstojustice.ca/guided-pathways/divorce-forms>

**Step Two:** File your paperwork online:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/file-divorce-application-online>