

## Mediation: A Favorable Resolution to Family Dispute Settlement

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Disparate and concurrent interests are an inherent part of every aspect of living. Through time, the manner and mechanisms of conflict resolution have evolved. Of these many processes, mediation has proved to be a useful tool. Of particular interest is the use of mediation in Family Law, which had gained worldwide acceptance as an alternative in the Philippine jurisdiction.

Most family disputes are resolved within the family by negotiation, mediation, and private adjudication. These alternatives, particularly mediation, enable the parties involved to arrive at a mutually acceptable agreement as a means of preventing the onset of protracted litigation.

A paradigm shift becomes necessary in light of the similarity of the Family Law structure in mediation to other fields of law. In addition, mediation is divested of the antagonistic tendencies inherent in full-blown court cases.

The end result of accepting mediation as an alternative in the Family Law context is the protection of the primary institution that is the family, in accordance with the constitutional edict. This is accomplished by making things simpler, and if possible, free from the resort to trial.