

Day #17: The Eleven Step Divorce Litigation  
Process, #9: Court-Ordered Economic  
Mediation

Hi,

Thanks again for Subscribing. Today we continue through our “eleven steps” for a contested New Jersey Divorce. Today we review the Court-Ordered Economic Mediation process.

### **Court-Ordered Economic Mediation**

If you didn't settle the case at the Early Settlement Panel or shortly thereafter, then in most counties, you will be assigned to mandatory economic mediation. The Court will provide a list of mediators (generally attorneys with mediation experience). Both parties and their attorneys will then be required to meet with the mediators to attempt to try and resolve the financial issues between the parties.

Under the New Jersey Court Rules, the mediator's first two (2) hours are volunteered and thus not billed

(generally first hour is for preparation so you only get one hour with the mediator, however).

After that, if the parties wish to continue mediation, the mediator will bill at his or her regular rate. The mediation will not address any child custody or parenting time issues (hence the name “economic mediation”).

Economic mediation is another attempt by the Court system to dispose of your case without using a great deal of judicial resources. The next step in the process, the Intensive Settlement Conference is also the product of that necessity.

All the best,

Carl

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