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## PRE-MARITAL MEDIATION

*Getting on the same page  
so that you will stay on the same page.*

**P**re-marital mediation is a dynamic and recent addition to the well-established field of family mediation. More and more, engaged couples are including mediation as an essential component of their wedding planning. These couples are investing in their relationship by sitting down before they are married with experienced neutrals for an open and honest discussion of the issues that will inevitably come up when they are married. And by mediating now, these couples greatly reduce the risk that they will end up in divorce mediation or litigation down the road.

In an exciting collaboration between mediators, Nell Coogan and Neal Rodar have come together to offer premarital mediation. With over 25 years of combined mediation experience, Nell and Neal guide couples in comprehensive and meaningful conversations. Premarital mediation allows the couple to enter marriage with an established pattern of honest and clear communication designed to support a strong and lasting relationship.



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*Here are some of the topics  
that couples address:*

- Managing income and addressing long-term financial goals. How will the couple make financial decisions?
- Assets. Identify them and decide if they remain separate property in the event the couple separates. Joint or separate bank accounts?
- Debts. What are the outstanding debts of either or both parties?
- Employment and retirement expectations.
- Pre-Nuptial Agreement. Should there be one and if so, what should it include and should it have a limited duration?
- Children. Whether, when and how many? How will parental responsibility be shared in this new or blended family?
- How to communicate effectively and respectfully, especially about difficult issues?
- Is religion important to either spouse and, if so, how might that affect the relationship/family?

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