

## Expectations of Conduct in Session

1. Participants will focus on the future and avoid unnecessary discussions of the past. Participants will focus on resolving conflict and not on assessing blame.
2. Participants will keep in mind the clients' shared goals at every joint meeting, and will take actions and make decisions in furtherance of those goals.
3. Participants will address others in a courteous manner and tone. Participants will not interrupt when another person is speaking. Participants will avoid sarcastic, contemptuous, critical, defensive, or judgmental communications/ comments.
4. If a participant feels that progress has ceased or that he/she is about to lose control of himself/herself and say or do something to impede progress, that participant will call for a break. If the break is insufficient to calm the affected participant, the meeting may be adjourned.
5. Each participant will speak only for himself/herself. Participants will use "I" instead of "You" sentences.
6. Participants will express their genuine interests.
7. Participants will be patient with each other and the professionals. All participants will assume that each participant is acting in good faith and realize that everyone does not move at the same pace. To pull together, each participant must sometimes accommodate by slowing down. Delays can happen, even with everyone acting in good faith.
8. Participants will follow the agenda for that joint meeting. If there are other topics that participants want to address, he/she will ask that it be included in the agenda for the next joint meeting.
9. Participants will be honest.
10. Participants recognize that arguing is pointless.

*Collaborative Law of Texas - 2004*

## Humor

### Great Truths That Little Children Have Learned:

- No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- Never ask your 3-year-old brother to hold a tomato.
- You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- Don't wear polka dot underwear with white shorts.
- The best place to be when you're sad is grandpa's lap.

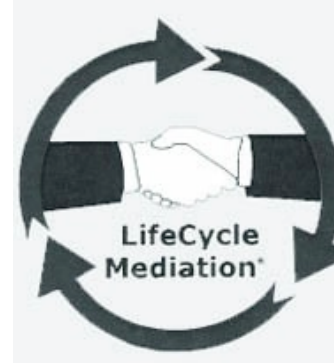
### Great Truths That Adults Have Learned:

- Raising teenagers is like nailing Jello to a tree.
- Wrinkles don't hurt.
- Families are like fudge – mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

### Great Truths About Growing Old:

- Growing up is mandatory, growing old is optional.
- When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do when you're down there.
- It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.
- You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.

*Author Unknown*



*Meeting rooms throughout  
the Twin Cities.*

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**michael garelick**  
**MEDIATOR**



**Parenting Time Expedite**

*"A Solution,  
Not Just a Settlement"<sup>SM</sup>*

**LifeCycle Mediation LL**

**952-925-0000**

## **My Qualifications**

### **Biographical Statement:**

Parenting Time Expeditor: Mediation and arbitration of divorce custody visitation problems for Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Anoka and Dakota County Family Court.

Parenting Consultant: Arbitration of divorce custody visitation problems for Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Anoka, Wright and Dakota County Family Court.

Guardian ad Litem: For juvenile court – Hennepin County – Helping with judicial decisions concerning neglected and abused children.

Approved Neutral 114: By the Minnesota Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Board.

Real Estate Arbitration: Residential Property – resolving disputes between buyers and sellers.

Licensed Real Estate Mediator since 1967.

Hennepin County Board of Property Equalizations: Served for 12 terms on Appeal board or property tax valuations.

### **Mediation Certificates:**

- State Certified Basic Mediation
- Advanced Family Mediation
- Family Mediation Bridge
- Restorative Justice
- Guardian ad Litem
- Parenting Time Expeditor
- Parenting Consultant

### **Community Involvement:**

- Volunteer Mediator for Hennepin & Ramsey County Housing & Conciliation Courts
- Certificate of Recognition for community involvement, MN Board of Realtors
- Past “Big Brother” program
- Board Member for JFCS
- Hospice Chaplain
- Volunteer Mediator, MN Dept. of Human Rights
- St. Louis Park Planning Commission – 6 years
- Mediator, Minneapolis Department of Civic Rights
- Guardian ad Litem

## **What is a Parenting Time Expeditor?**

It would be great if a divorce settlement really did settle everything. Often however, questions and even conflicts begin to arise as couples live out the terms of the child custody.

- Under Minnesota Statutes, the Parenting Time Expeditor may resolve parenting time disputes by enforcing, interpreting, clarifying and addressing circumstances not specifically addressed by an existing parenting time order and, if appropriate, to make a determination as to whether the existing parenting time order has been violated.
- Notes, records and recollections of Parenting Time Expeditors are confidential.
- Parenting Time Expeditors cannot be subpoenaed or called as witnesses in court proceedings.
- Minnesota Statutes allow both parents to work with a single Parenting Time Expeditor.
- Meeting with both parties, the expeditor mediates the issues, if possible, and where conflicts remain, makes a binding decision that is in the interest of parties – with a focus on the well being of the children.

## **Why Me?**

- Each case is reviewed and suggestions are given by the LifeCycle mediation team.
- My fee is very affordable, both parties share costs. A sliding scale is available.
- Before I make a final decision, I often talk to the children, grandparents, teachers and any support professionals to understand the entire problem.
- I offer a flexible schedule, including evenings and weekends.
- Meeting rooms throughout the Twin Cities area.

## **Highlights of the lifecyclemediation.com Website**

Parenting Time Expeditor vs. Parenting Consultant Issue Chart, compare and contrast.

Useful resources - direct internet links to many social service and parenting help sites.

My Expeditors! Two expeditors working with high conflict families.

The Minnesota law statute for parenting time expediting.

My parenting time contract and rates.

## **Professional Associations:**

- Minnesota State Bar Association – Dispute Resolution Section
- Conflict Resolution Minnesota

## **High Conflict Families – A Dual Option**

Terri RomanoffNewman Ph.D. and Michael Garelick have joined together to provide 114 Neutral Services. We believe that it is beneficial to have both a male and female with mediation training to help clients create a balance, feel the most comfortable and generate the greatest amount of ideas.

## **Websites:**

romanoffnewman.com  
lifecyclemediation.com

## **Testimonials:**

Michael G. – he took our problems seriously and always called back promptly with answers to my questions. He spent a lot of time with my family my kids really liked him, and felt comfortable w him. I would recommend Michael to anyone tha needs this kind of help. L.W. Golden Valley, M

I wanted to thank you again for taking the time to meet with me last Friday. I was very impressed you and what you have accomplished in your fie M.S., Minnetonka, MN

Michael made the decision in selecting a school district for my son. My son has apraxia, a speak disability. Michael interviewed the staff and researched the strengths and weaknesses of the school districts. He helped my son assimilate in a new school district. A.L., Eden Prairie, MN

I have four children in my family. Michael was Parenting Consultant. He was there when the problems about driving, schools and visitation became impossible. I feel lucky that he was in n children’s lives. C.P., Minneapolis, MN

I have an 8 year old son. I have full physical and legal custody. Michael helped me deal with my father. The issues of pick-up and drop-off times a big problem. Michael helped solve this by say “What is best for the child?” Thank you Michae helping my family for four years. J.G., St. Louis Park, MN

Mr. G.

I just wanted to thank you for what you do for my family every day. You are always willing to listen and understand what I am trying to say. You make time for us no matter when we need you, calm me down when I feel the world crashing around us, identify what is most important in each specific situation, and make decisions using common sense. You have had a calming effect on our family and thank you. J.W., Otsego, MN