



Understanding Settlement Negotiations

Most family law cases settle before trial. Settlement lets the parties make decisions together instead of leaving them to a judge. It can save time, money, and stress, and it often leads to outcomes that work better for everyone, including children.

How negotiations work

- 1 Setting Goals.** We talk with you about your priorities and what a fair outcome looks like for you.
- 2 Offers and Counteroffers.** Proposals are exchanged through the attorneys, often several times, until the parties find common ground.
- 3 Mediation.** Many Georgia courts generally require mediation, where a neutral mediator helps the parties negotiate.
- 4 Compromise.** Each party usually gives some ground. Settlement rarely means getting everything you want.
- 5 Your Decision.** You decide whether to accept an offer. We will give you our advice, but the choice is yours.
- 6 Putting It in Writing.** Final terms are written into an agreement that both parties sign. The court can then make it part of an order.

Weighing your options

Cost. Going to trial is usually much more expensive than settling.

Risk. At trial, a judge decides, and the outcome can be hard to predict.

Time. Preparing for trial can add months to a case.

Control. Settlement lets the parties shape details a judge might not consider.

What to keep in mind

Settlement discussions generally cannot be used as admissions against you in court.

We will not agree to any terms without your approval.

Read every term carefully before signing. A signed agreement is very hard to undo.

Staying flexible and respectful often leads to better results for everyone.

This guide provides general information about settlement negotiations in Georgia family law matters and is not legal advice about your specific case. Your attorney will explain how settlement negotiations apply to your situation.

YOUR ROLE

Share your priorities honestly, respond to offers by the deadlines we give you, and ask questions until you fully understand any proposed agreement.

QUESTIONS?

As always, all questions and requests should be directed to the team via email to team@pepitone.law.