

CONFLICT TO RESOLUTION FLOW CHART DETAILS

DEFINITIONS*

- **Conflict Oriented:** Conflict oriented parties are those who are more focused on the conflict and the way they feel about the other person or the situation than they can focus on the solution. They are generally focused on either feeling a certain way or making the other person feel a certain way. The desired feeling is usually an “extreme.” Conflict oriented people can become resolution oriented.
- **Resolution Oriented:** Resolution oriented clients are those who are more focused on solutions than feeling a certain way. Even resolution – oriented people can be caught up in a high conflict case, if either the facts or the other party are high conflict or lend themselves to high conflict. Resolution oriented people can become high conflict.
- **Clinical:** A person can be high conflict or can be in a high conflict situation, because of mental health concerns, substance use issues, or domestic violence.
- **Circumstantial:** A person can be in a high conflict situation because of circumstances – i.e. emotions such as fear, disdain, anger, or sadness. They may also find themselves in a high conflict situation simply because they or the other party does not understand (and therefore circles back to fear).
- **Experts (Informational):** Informational experts are those who provide data or opinions to one or both of the parties that addresses the unresolved issues in a case. These experts are generally child experts, financial experts, or mental health experts.
- **Experts (addressing individual needs):** If a family is in conflict because of their circumstances, it can be helpful to get experts involved who are not there to assist with the litigation but are there to help your client(s). For example, if your client is operating from a place of fear for their financial future, it may be helpful to involve a CDFA to help them create a budget and walk through settlement proposals. Likewise, if a party is struggling with their emotions and dealing with the case, they may benefit from family or individual therapy. Other experts that could be helpful are parenting coaches, business coaches, divorce coaches, and career counselors.
- **Resolution:** Resolution can come from out of court settlement or can result from appearing in front of a judge. Either way, the process can be organized and dignified, and attorneys, with the right approach, can help reduce conflict, even in the most difficult of cases.

**These are not legal definitions or intended for use in a legal context, other than interpreting potential steps to resolve cases, as per the flow chart provided.*