Katrina and Nicholas

Katrina and Nick are in their late thirties, married (2003) for 13 years. They have two children, son 5 yrs. and daughter 3 yrs. They are both Swedish and work together in the company founded by Katrina 3 years before their marriage. There finances are totally intermingled. Wife has an “Entrepreneurial Visa” that must be renewed every 5 years. Husband’s Visa is contingent on his marriage to wife. It allows him to work for anybody while he is married. There are considerable consequences for him, including the possibility of having to leave the U.S.A. within 90 days should he divorce. Both said that they have contacted separate Immigration attorneys and were engaged in separate discussions about possible solutions to husband’s immigration dilemma.

Katrina was referred by a previous Divorce Innovations’ client and contacted the counseling mediator by phone in November 2016. She reported that the couple had been separated 1 yr, and planned to divorce once Nick’s visa problem was resolved.

The following information is distilled from the initial telephone contact with the Katrina, a free 1-hour educational session with both clients, and two individual sessions with the Counseling Mediator.

Katrina describes herself as a highly driven extrovert, who came to the U.S. in 2000 and started a successful new company. She met Nick, dated and married him so that he could remain in the country. She hired and trained him to manage a division of her company. She describes their current working relationship as highly contentious and hostile, with poor communications, no acknowledgement for what she has done for him and very little cooperation or support from Nick. The lack of cooperation, mutualy caring and respect overflowed into their home and parenting. Efforts at marital counseling were unsuccessful. Over the years following their marriage, Nick at times, became severely depressed and suicidal until he sought individual counseling and antidepressant medication. Katrina alleges that responsibility for the company and primary care of the children fell on her. She had consulted on two occasions with a litigation attorney/friend who told her she had all of the power and could probably get custody and most of the assets. She declined to pursue this approach fearing a hostile and possibly destructive litigation that would be harmful for the children.

Nicholas perceives himself as a victim of his wife’s obsessive drive, constant criticism, dislike of change and need to control. He deeply resents her and believes she is unwilling to acknowledge him for his hard work and contribution to the company. He believes they “get along on money and parenting the children”.

The couple agreed to separate. Nick moved into the house they owned next to the marital residence. Katrina discovered Nickolas was having an affair with her friend and client. She accepted their relationship for the sake of the children. However, in turn, she became involved with a recently divorced man with two children the same ages as hers.

Both parties agreed that mediation was the best and most economical way to pursue a divorce. Katrina’s goal was to resolve Nick’s immigration and divorce with 3 months. She was adamant in her position that the company was hers and would not consider Nick’s claim to partial ownership.

**The Mediation Process and Events Timeline:**

Step 1: November 29, 2016: First telephone contact with Katrina

Step 2: December 1, 2016. Couple attends a Free Concept Meeting - Mediators meet with the couple to discuss the Team Mediation process. The couple decides to begin with a 4-way mediation. Parenting Mediator will begin addressing negative emotions, poor communications and negotiation skills (e.g. Making Proposals –Bill Eddy, esq) during individual sessions prior to 1 st 4-way mediation.

Step 3: January 11, 2017: Nicholas Individual Meeting with Parenting Mediator

Step 4: January 31, 2017: Katrina individual Meeting with Parenting Mediator

Step 5: June 29, 2017: First 4-Way Mediation focused on immigration, and initial financial settlement issues. [Post Nuptual proposal]

Event: July 2017: Couple goes on one-month vacation to Europe with

Children.

Event: September 2017: Katrina referred to therapist for support and

stress management.

Event: Refer Katrina and Significant Other to Child Specialist for

Blended Family work.

Event: December 2017 to 9/11/18: Couple sends periodic updates. No

meetings scheduled.

Event: January 2019: Refer couple to two Collaborative Attorneys.

Event: February 2019; Nicholas files for divorce. Both retain litigation

Attorneys.

Event: Couple works with litigation attorneys to reach a financial

settlement including a parenting plan.

Step 6: March 5, 2019: Mediation Session on parenting issues held with Katrina

and Nicholas at her attorneys office prior to attorney settlement

conference.