

What is Family Mediation and who can attend?

Mediation is available to separated and separating couples, divorcing couples, parents and extended family members where child and financial disputes have arisen and communication is difficult.

You and the other party explain your concerns and views in a round table meeting with one of our professional Family Mediators, who help you both to reach an agreement.

Mediation is not about reconciling, but focuses on moving forward once a relationship or marriage has broken down. It is available whether you have recently separated or been separated for some time. Similarly you can attend Mediation if you have already begun legal or court proceedings.

Our services are available regardless of age, race, nationality, sexuality, faith and other factors.

What happens in Mediation?

We will discuss with you whether the mediation process is right for you and your circumstances. We will let you know how much mediation will cost and check if you are eligible for legally aided mediation. We will meet you separately

for a Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting (MIAM).

An appointment can then be made for you both, during which one of our mediators will help you discuss your views and concerns in order to reach an agreement. The number of joint meetings required will depend on the issues to be addressed.

When arrangements are agreed, the Mediator will create a formal document confirming your proposals. Where financial arrangements are being discussed they will also create an open summary of all assets and debts once these are disclosed.

Child Inclusive Mediation

We are professionally qualified to meet with children to give an opportunity for them to discuss their feelings and wishes. This information can be shared with parents to assist them in making decisions about the best possible arrangements for the children.

How long does Mediation take and how much does it cost?

Each joint appointment usually lasts between 1 and 2 hours. The full process usually takes between 2 to 5 joint sessions, depending on the complexity of the issues.

We just can't agree

What about the Children ?

What about our finances ?

Mediation may in fact not cost anything; Legal Aid is still available for Mediation, subject to financial assessment. A Legal Aid assessment will take place at the initial stage. If you qualify this will cover the cost of your Mediation sessions.

We also offer private Mediation, offering substantial savings in cost, time and stress. Costs can be discussed with one of our Mediators via telephone or will be fully explained at your initial appointment.

About our Mediators

All of our Mediators are fully trained and have achieved full recognition from the Family Mediation Council (FMC). They continue to undertake relevant and FMC recognised training throughout the year.

Our Mediators will not make decisions on your behalf, and will remain impartial throughout the process of Mediation. They will use the skills they have developed to help you and your partner move towards arrangements.

Does it really work ?

How much will it cost ?

How long will it take ?

Unlike court proceedings you will remain in control and no-one will make you do anything against your wishes. When discussing child and financial matters our Mediators are able to provide you both with legal information which is relevant to your situation.

What are the benefits of Mediation?

- It is quicker and cheaper than court proceedings.
- It is an amicable approach to disputes, which improves the situation for any children involved.
- It helps to improve communication.
- You and the other party remain in control of the decisions being made.
- It allows you to make unique solutions suited to your individual circumstance.

What if you want to go to court or see a Solicitor?

People often feel that they benefit from obtaining independent legal advice during the process of Mediation. We are able to provide names and contact details of solicitors in your area. When attending Mediation the use of a solicitor will be targeted and therefore should avoid high legal costs associated with the route of 'Solicitor only' or the Court process.

Once child and financial arrangements have been proposed through Mediation you may wish for these to be made legally binding. A solicitor will turn your confirmed intentions into a consent order (in divorce proceedings) or a separation agreement (if you and the other party are not married).

Mediation is not the right process for everyone, the initial separate MIAM allows you and one of our Mediators to discuss and assess whether it is appropriate for you.

Due to recent legislation there is an expectation that an applicant will first attend a MIAM with a Mediator before making an application to the family court. In most cases the Judiciary would prefer you to make your own decisions regarding arrangements, rather than having decisions imposed on you by the court process.

Why Mediation ?

Research shows that Mediation secures better results, particularly for children, as it is based on discussion and agreement instead of focusing on bitterness and hostility.

The National Audit Office and Government figures show that

- a Mediated case typically takes 110 days to resolve compared to 435 days in cases where Mediation isn't used
- The average cost of resolving financial and property disputes through the courts is 8 times greater than if resolved through Mediation
- Agreements through Mediation are three times less likely to need further legal services

For more information please contact us :

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Mediation north west

Family Mediation

**Resolving disputes involving
children, finances, property and
other issues.**

**Professional Mediation offers
substantial savings in cost, time and
stress. It is confidential, and provides
long-lasting resolution based on
agreement.**