

Finding an agreement everyone can live with

How does it work?

Each family member is offered an individual and confidential appointment. This is called a Mediation Information and Assessment meeting (MIAM). It is at this meeting that the reasons for coming to mediation will be discussed. Also the mediator will talk to you about the different types of mediation available, such as shuttle, joint, face-to-face and online.

If mediation is suitable, a joint or shuttle meeting will be organised where family members will have the opportunity to talk about their concerns, look at options and agree on a way forward. It may take a number of sessions to find an agreement.

What will it cost?

There are two options: Legal Aid and privately paying. If you qualify for Legal Aid you will receive your mediation at no cost. If you receive Legal Aid and your ex-partner does not, the cost of their MIAM and first mediation session will be met by the Legal Aid Agency. After this, they will need to pay privately. You can talk to one of our team to see if you qualify.

For private clients, our costs are simple, with hourly fees of £120 per person. We request that payment is made before the session, either by card or bank transfer.

Where are we?

We have over 200 venues across England and Wales for family mediation. We are also contactable via telephone, Skype, FaceTime or Whatsapp.

Want to know more?

If you want to find out more about our national mediation service, please contact us.

w: directmediationservices.co.uk
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Direct Mediation Services is a trading name of
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DIRECT MEDIATION SERVICES

Can mediation work for you?



Family mediation can help with:

- Making arrangements for children
- Sorting out finances
- Improving communications
- Reducing legal costs
- Avoiding court
- MIAMS, Forms FM1 and C100
- Legal Aid available

What is mediation?

Family mediation is a process in which an accredited Family Mediator supports family members to communicate more effectively and to make their own arrangements for the future.

Family mediation can:

- Reduce conflict
- Help adults focus on the needs of the child
- Improve family life
- Avoid long painful and expensive legal battles

Mediators do not take sides, make judgments or give advice or guidance. The mediator's role is to support people in making their own decision about their future. Family mediation supports families through change, generally as a result of separation, divorce, or family restructuring.

Who is it for?

Mediation is a process suitable for all families, and can extend to as wide a circle as necessary, including grandparents, step-parents and young people. Our staff are understanding, sympathetic and experienced. We are LGBTQ+ friendly. A family is a family – no matter who the members are.

Why choose family mediation?

It is in the children's best interests

It is well known that when parents co-operate, there is a beneficial effect on children, as it helps them maintain important family relationships.

It is less stressful & results in less conflict

The courts are often known for their adversarial approach and people often try to 'win' against the other, without looking at the overall picture.

It is usually quicker than going to court

The family mediation route takes on average 110 days, compared with 435 days for non-mediated cases. Therefore, the average time saving is 325 days (10.5 months).



It puts the decision in your hands, not the courts

A family mediator will assist you to find a solution that works for you and your family and importantly, how you can make this agreement legally binding.

An agreement can be made in a safe & confidential environment

Mediation is always confidential. Meetings are private and at the mediator's office or a neutral venue.

It is usually cheaper than going to court

According to The National Audit Report in 2012, the average cost per client for mediation was £675. The average cost per client for cases going to court was £2,823. This is an average cost saving of £2,148.

Dialogue is the most effective way of resolving conflict

Tenzin Gyatso, The 14th Dalai Lama