

Our Services

Divorce and Family Law

Mediation

Helping you to talk and work out solutions

The breakdown of any family relationship is a distressing and emotional time, and sometimes talking face-to-face can seem like a difficult thing to do. For people who want to reach agreements without going down the often costly and painful court route, mediation is a real alternative.

Mediation helps you to talk things through and sort out key issues.

How does mediation work?

You will both work with a Mediator who will help you to reach shared conclusions. Mediators are there to help you reach an understanding about the future, and to encourage negotiation and communication. They will make you aware of your options and help you talk about what matters to you.

Both parties set the agenda for discussion, so you are in control of the process. The Mediator will work around your own issues and individual circumstances. Many couples involve a Mediator to help them discuss aspects of their divorce, separation or the breakdown of their co-habitation, or to help them work through specific issues such as financial arrangements. Many couples with children find mediation the best way to discuss childcare arrangements, and it is reassuring for the children to know that their parents are working together.

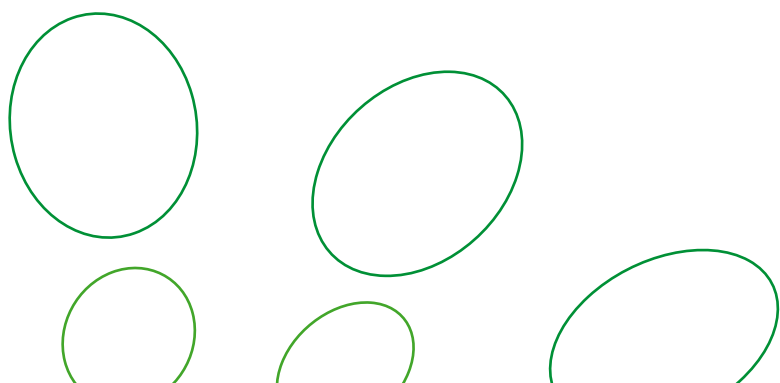
Mediation provides a safe and supportive environment to discuss personal and often emotional issues. Sometimes you may just need a helping hand to start talking, which is exactly where a Mediator comes in.

How is a Mediator different to a Solicitor?

A Mediator gives impartial guidance to both parties, to help you to reach practical solutions which are fair for both of you and your family. They are totally neutral and will not take sides. They do not give legal advice, though they can provide legal information to help you make sense of a situation.

You can speak to a Solicitor at any time during the process if you wish to. In any case, at the end of mediation, you will need to instruct a Solicitor to complete the legal formalities of what you have agreed in principle.

The Mediator involved cannot act as a Solicitor for either party following mediation. That way, you know they are trying to reach a fair solution for both of you.



What are the benefits?

Mediation has many benefits:

- Helps you to avoid costly and lengthy court battles
- Reduces tension and hostility
- Enables discussion and communication
- Puts you in control of the process
- Helps you to reach the right decisions about the future
- Has a positive effect on children as they see their parents working things out together.

Working together

You will normally work with one Mediator, but you can work with two if you prefer. The second Mediator could be a counsellor; there to provide extra support when emotions run high.

What happens at the end of the process?

At the end of mediation, you will be sent a Memorandum of Understanding, which sets out the conclusions you came to through mediation. This document is not legally binding. This memorandum will help both of your Solicitors to complete the legal formalities quickly and easily.

How long will mediation take?

All people and situations are different, but it is not uncommon to need 5-6 sessions to help you reach agreement. These sessions may last between 1-2 hours.

I think mediation is for me. What's the next step?

If you are both committed to mediation as a route, the next step is to get in touch. Our team of Divorce and Family Law Solicitors includes a qualified Family Law Mediator, trained by Resolution.

For more information please contact:

Janet Baines, Partner
26 Nicholas Street, Chester
Tel 01244 357400
janet.baines@wsw-law.com