

What is Family Mediation?

Family mediation is an option that you can use when you and your partner have decided to separate or have already separated and have unresolved issues. It is widely recommended where there is a disagreement over access to children, the family home, assets or finances. A settlement arrived at through mediation will avoid excessive legal bills and distressing court proceedings, and can be more enduring and satisfactory than having an outside authority settle things for you.

When can it be used?

Mediation can be used before or after separation or divorce. It can be used early on to talk about the things that are important to you and that need resolving when you are going through a difficult and painful situation, or it can be used later on, when things change and you need to renegotiate a former agreement.

How does it work?

You will receive the assistance of a trained family mediator – an impartial, independent third party who will support you to resolve your differences through a process of negotiation. Each case is about unique individuals, so we

cannot be absolutely definite about how it will proceed, but the essential steps are as follows:

- Initially you contact the MESH office and a member of our mediation staff will take down basic details about you and your situation.
- You will be contacted by the specialist family mediator, who will offer you an appointment for a Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting (MIAM) .
- Your ex partner will be invited to come for their MIAM
- At the MIAMs the mediator will assess whether your case is suitable for mediation and provide you with more information about how the mediation would proceed.
- If your case is not suitable for mediation and you require a Court form stating this we would normally provide it at this stage.
- The mediator will feed back the results of the first session, and produce an agenda, based on the needs of both parties, identifying the matters that are most important to you.
- Most cases proceed to a joint mediation. You may share the same room as your partner and the mediator so that there is a face to face discussion, or you could be in separate rooms near to each other.

- You will each be given in writing the agreement that you and your ex partner have arrived at. You also agree a period in which you both keep to the agreement, so you can make sure that you are both prepared to go ahead with it.
- The mediator can arrange a review meeting for you both. This gives an opportunity to revise and improve the agreement in the light of practical experience.
- In most cases between 2 and 4 mediation sessions are needed to establish a full set of agreements

What does it cost?

The initial session will cost £75.00 per person.

The meetings together will cost £75.00 per person

The post agreement review meeting will cost a further £75.00 per person

Further meetings can be arranged, please discuss this with your mediator.

Payments will be made in advance of each session.

MESH Community Cohesion Services

MESH operates a family mediation service in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, and North Derbyshire. MESH is a charity, dedicated to the use and promotion of mediation as a means of conflict resolution. MESH has a reputation for excellence in mediation training and the provision of mediation services.

Contact MESH

Would you like to discuss making a referral with one of our highly skilled Mediators?

Call: 0114 241 2771

Email: enquiries@meshccs.org.uk

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