

Why use mediation?

- Confidential.
- Voluntary.
- Usually faster and cheaper than going to court.
- You are in charge of the outcome.
- Flexible so you can have a solution to suit you.
- An informal process.
- Legal rights are not affected.
- Mediation can be used at any time even after court proceedings have started.
- It is better for your children if you can work together to make your own arrangements. It can include talking with your children.



Contracted with the Legal Aid Agency

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Gateway Family Mediation is a trading name of
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Resolve your issues arising from relationship
or family breakdown without going to court
and save money on legal fees.

What is family mediation?

Family mediation is an alternative and private process in which an independent person, known as a mediator, helps separating or divorcing couples communicate and reach solutions to any issues relating to separation, divorce, finances, property and children.

How does it work?

Gateway Family Mediators are qualified solicitors and trained professional mediators who are experienced in helping people resolve their problems.

Mediators are impartial. They cannot give legal advice but will help look at possible solutions and can give general information about the law and how it might affect your particular situation.

Mediation is voluntary and confidential.

Mediation is not marriage guidance.

Typically both parties will meet with the mediator in sessions lasting 90 minutes.

It may be possible for the mediator to talk with children in the mediation process.

At the end of the mediation process it is usual to take proposals to your solicitor to deal with legal formalities.



What can be discussed in mediation?

- What are the options for ending or maintaining the relationship and what are the consequences?
- Who are the children to live with? What contact are they to have with each parent and other people, such as grandparents? What other matters relating to parenting, arrangements for holidays and schooling need to be discussed?
- What is happening to the home and any other property or assets? What maintenance, if any, is to be paid for the children and/or adults?
- Is there anything else you need to resolve in connection with the relationship breakdown?
- How to deal with any future changes to the arrangements.
- Similar issues between same sex couples.

What does it cost?

If you qualify for Legal Aid, mediation is free. Otherwise, charges, and how they will be shared, will be dealt with at the first meeting. You are in control, so you decide at the end of each session if you would like to carry on with mediation. Even if not eligible for legal aid there may be a voucher available to assist with costs.

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