

# Family mediation service



# Mediation

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The breakdown of a relationship can be one of the most traumatic periods of anyone's life. Naturally, you will be concerned about your current financial and property arrangements and how it will affect any children you may have.

Mediation offers an alternative way to resolve all issues arising from separation and divorce.

Its aim is to assist people who have decided to separate or divorce to reach mutually acceptable proposals rather than go through the court process, which is not only stressful but costly.

Mediation can help couples to reduce tension and hostility; make decisions on an informed basis; tailor-make solutions to their particular requirements; communicate and co-operate; explore and examine options; appreciate and consider the needs of the children to express their feelings in a secure environment; save legal costs, as disputes can be resolved more quickly and effectively.

## The role of the mediator

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The task of the impartial mediator is to help you and your partner determine what issues you need to resolve and then help you arrive at sensible and practical solutions that feel fair for both of you. At the end of the mediation you will both take your mutually acceptable proposals to your solicitor. Once they have approved the proposed settlement, your solicitor will advise you and complete the necessary legal formalities.



Our mediators have undergone specialist mediation training and include members of the Law Society Family Mediation Panel, accredited Resolution specialist mediators and members of the Family Mediators Association. They are also practicing family solicitors. This can be invaluable in all areas of dispute: issues about where and with whom children are going to live; financial matters; divorce and separation issues; in fact, the whole range of family disputes.

# Frequently asked questions

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## How does mediation work?

Usually each person is seen separately by a mediator for assessment. If mediation seems to be the way forward then we arrange a joint session involving the couple and the mediator, who will act as an impartial third party and will help the couple to exchange information, ideas and feelings.

## Do the children come?

Whilst children do not usually come to mediation sessions, they can be consulted by specially trained mediators if both parents and the mediator feel it would be useful.

Most children cope with family breakdowns with the help of their parents but some find it difficult to do so. If parents feel that their child needs help in his/her own right, then assistance and referrals may be arranged.

## Do I need a solicitor?

It is strongly recommended that people consult a solicitor to ensure that they are aware of their legal position.

## The cost of mediation

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Public funding may be available to pay some or all of the costs. The mediator will assess eligibility at the outset.

Mediation sessions generally last one and a half to two hours each. The number of sessions depends upon the issues involved. Three or four sessions are not uncommon, but more or less may be needed.

Parties do not commit themselves to any fixed number of sessions but can decide at the end of each session if they wish to continue.

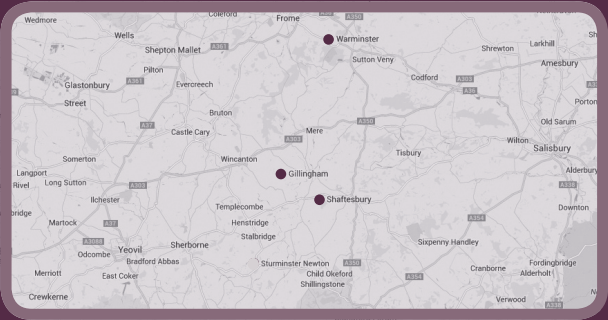
For full information regarding charges for mediation services and any other costs involved not covered by public funding call us on 01747 834209 to speak to one of our experienced family mediators.

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Or email us at [info@farnfieldsmediation.com](mailto:info@farnfieldsmediation.com)



We have offices in: Gillingham, Yeovil, Warminster and Shaftesbury.

- Members of Law Society Family Mediation Panel
- Accredited Resolution Specialist Mediators
- Members of the Family Mediators Association, Resolution and the ADR group
- Professional Practice Consultant for Mediation



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