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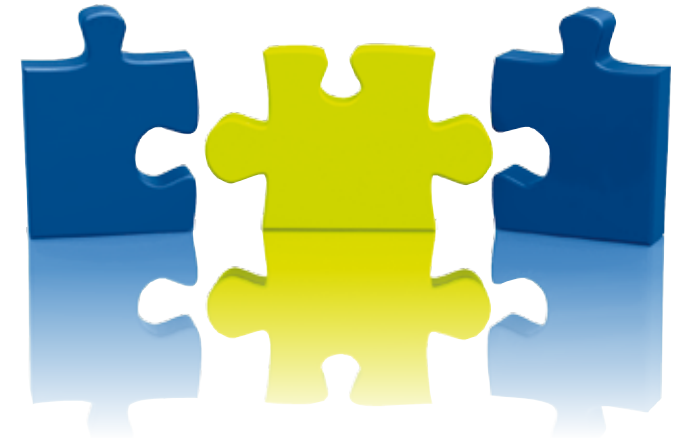
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Family Mediation



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Mediation professionals



Family Mediation - what is it?

Mediation can be easier to define by what it is not

- It is not reconciliation and it is not counselling
- The mediator cannot make decisions or impose a solution on a couple

Family mediation is a process by which an impartial third party, the mediator, facilitates a discussion between a separating or separated couple, enabling them to reach a solution suitable to their situation.

The solution may be in connection with children, or finances and property, or both. In some circumstances the mediator can see children.

The mediation process is intended to enable the couple to solve their problems together, rather than some other person telling them what they should do.

The mediator's role is to

- Facilitate open and free discussion
- Ensure that any proposals are realistic
- Help the couple reach consensus

What can mediation cover?

The mediation process covers terms of separation or divorce, contact and living arrangements for children, maintenance provisions for the couple and/or family as well as how the family property should be distributed.

How does the process work?

There are two ways to be referred to a mediator.

- By the couple's own solicitor
- By contacting us directly

Mediation takes place in a series of sessions with the couple and the mediator. If there are financial issues, then the sessions will include the disclosure of all financial information.

Once a solution is reached the mediator will summarise the proposals and any financial disclosure. These summaries are not legally binding, but may be used to make a legally binding document with the help of a solicitor.

What are the benefits?

- Solutions are the couple's own solutions tailored to their needs
- Mediation is not adversarial, unlike court proceedings
- Mediation is usually quicker and less expensive than the court process
- The process is less stressful than court proceedings
- The co-operative nature of mediation helps solutions endure

Who are the mediators?

We are lawyers who specialise in family law, and are trained in family mediation. We work to a Code of Practice, which follows internationally accepted principles.

Where does it take place?

The mediation can take place in our offices in either Brighton, Lewes or Eastbourne.

How long will it take?

Mediation is conducted in sessions of about 90 minutes, and experience suggests that an average of three to five sessions will be needed. Charges are payable at each session.

At the conclusion of all sessions a summary will be prepared and sent to each party. There will be a charge for the time involved in preparing the summary.

Contact us

For more information on Family Mediation, contact the Family Law Team using the contact details overleaf or visit our website

www.mayowynnebaxter.co.uk

