



Is mediation confidential?

Discussions in Family Mediation are confidential. This confidentiality can only be breached if a crime is alleged against a child, the mediator considers someone to be at serious risk of harm or allegations are made of criminal/fraudulent activity.

Will I need a solicitor?

The mediator can record your decisions and summarise them in a written Memorandum of Understanding. This is not binding, but can form the basis of a legal agreement. In mediation you do your

own negotiating, removing the need for lengthy solicitor negotiation and legal action, but you each still need a solicitor to advise you and to make any joint proposals legally binding. Mediators do not at any time give legal advice.

What next?

If you anticipate difficulty using mediation, eg. because you have a disability, please let us know so that we can make any necessary arrangements. Otherwise, to make an appointment, please get in touch with Family Mediation Northern Ireland - contact details below.

telephone: 028 9024 3265

fax: 028 9033 1576

email: enquiry@familymediationni.org.uk

www.familymediationni.org.uk

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All individuals shown in photographs are models for illustration only.

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separation mediation



fmni



family
mediation
NORTHERN IRELAND

to assist families managing the issues arising from separation and divorce

Separation, divorce or family conflict? Mediation can help.

What is Family Mediation?

If you are at the point of separation, or you are already separated or divorced, there may be issues causing you concern. These might include parenting issues and the best arrangements for your children, financial matters such as the home and other capital, child support and maintenance or any other problem particular to your personal circumstances. Family Mediation offers the opportunity for parents, or (former) couples, to discuss any or all of these matters together with the assistance of a mediator to reach a jointly negotiated settlement.

Family Mediation is also appropriate in other family circumstances - for example, where families have an adult dependent for whom decisions need to be taken or where there are disputes between adult siblings or between generations or when there are lesbian or gay family relationship issues.

Family Mediators can help you identify the issues, consider the

available options and arrive at proposals that will meet individual needs and those of any children. Family mediators are impartial and seek to be even handed. They will help each person to speak and be heard. They will work to improve communication and reduce levels of conflict. They will help you to organise your discussions to enable you to reach your own decisions.

An initial information appointment lasts one hour. The cost of mediation services is considerably less than legal services, details available on request.

Who are the Family Mediators?

Our team is professionally trained in child focused, financial, and all issues mediation, and aim to offer a high quality and accessible service throughout Northern Ireland. We are a voluntary organisation independent of the statutory services.

Appointments are generally offered within 21 days. We work to the standards and code of practice of the UK Council of Family Mediators and are members of the national, professional bodies for mediators.



Do I have to use Family Mediation?

- Family Mediation is voluntary and nobody can be compelled to take part against his or her will. It is very helpful in enabling people to reach their own negotiated settlements.
- The first appointment is always an introductory one so you can consider whether mediation is a way forward at this time.
- Joint appointments are never arranged without prior discussion and without including individual discussion with each person
- If you have any concerns about taking part in mediation or are worried about meeting your partner or ex partner - perhaps due to violence, harassment or intimidation - please convey this to us. We will ensure that your concerns are addressed. Your safety is a priority.

Will our children be involved in mediation?

If you have children we can help you discuss how to talk with them to ascertain their views and help them to understand what is happening. We will gladly see your children in mediation, if you wish, and will discuss this with you. Children may have very different concerns to their parents. It is important for them to be able to express these and think about the implications for the future. Parents are often better able to reassure and help their children once they know what their children are thinking.

While you are attending a mediation appointment, it will be necessary for you to make arrangements for someone else to look after your children (unless, after discussion with you, the mediator has arranged an appointment to meet with your children in mediation).

families separation + mediation = Better outcomes