

General Information about Mediation



NEW LANDSCAPE
FAMILY MEDIATION

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What is mediation?

Family mediation is a process where a qualified mediator works closely with a separating or divorcing couple to help you reach workable, sensible and lasting decisions about a number of different issues that arise from relationship breakdown. These issues might be about children, finances, property or any combination of the three. The primary value of mediation over other forms of breakdown settlement is that your mediator will work with you to develop a custom solution that is specifically designed around the needs or *your* family and what is important to you, rather than having them made for them by the court or some other authority.

The mediator's role is to lead you through a process of negotiation and discussion whilst always ensuring that you each have time to speak, think and respond. **Mediation is voluntary and confidential.**

Who is the mediator and what is their role?

With New Landscape Mediation, your mediator will be a professionally qualified mediator, accredited and regulated by the Family Mediation Council.

In mediation, your mediator will:

- Be impartial and balanced (not taking the side of one of you over the other)
- Be independent of the court or any other outside authority
- Manage the process of mediation (see below)
- Provide even handed information to help you to make informed decisions
- Guide you with regard to research you may need to do
- be forward focused and work to resolve the issues, leaving out blame and responsibility
- Play an active role in working through your issues whilst still ensuring the final decisions are yours

How does mediation work?

It is a step by step process in which your mediator will assist you to:

- Exchange appropriate information at the beginning (Such as Form E information or otherwise)
- Clarify the issues to be resolved and discussed and ensure appropriate ground rules for those discussions
- Explore and develop options for possible outcomes in resolving with the issues
- Discuss and explore interim arrangements – including the possibilities for trying out/testing different solution options (if appropriate, usually in child arrangements)
- Assist you in obtaining independent legal advice during mediation to explore the possible options you both find agreeable if you do not already have a solicitor
- Create with you, a mutually acceptable settlement proposal, having considered all the implications
- Draft outcome documents illustrating the proposals reached

What record will I have of the proposals reached?

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) *or* Statement of Outcome
 - The MOU summarises the mutually acceptable proposals reached in mediation
 - The Statement of Outcome summarises the mutually acceptable proposals where the only issues mediated are in regards to children or for unmarried couples with children
- An Open Financial Statement (OFS)
The OFS details the financial information disclosed in mediation

The proposals within the MOU or Statement of Outcome are non-binding until converted into a consent order by your solicitor during the divorce process

How long does it take and what does it cost?

Mediation dealing with child only issues normally takes 1 – 3 sessions. Mediation for property and financial issues normally take 2 – 4 sessions. Mediation that deals with all of these issues will usually be concluded within 5 sessions. Where there are extremely complicated finances, or should there be the need for a Direct Child Consultation within the mediation process, this can add 2 - 3 additional special purpose one hour meetings.

We take great pride in offering our clients solid value for money in our efforts to assist them in reaching a final settlement solution. In doing this, we keep a regular audit of mediation costs in order to ensure we are continuing to offer the best value we can. We are proud to state that on average, the cost per person to reach a fully negotiated agreement and to have this written up in a final outcome document is only £975.00.

About New Landscape Mediation

New Landscape Mediation specialise in assisting families resolve a myriad of personal and financial issues resulting from relationship breakdown. Led by Carolyn Hanes and Johnathan Pease, New Landscape Mediation benefits from a combined professional experience of over 40 years helping families to resolve these conflicts with as much dignity as possible, at the lowest possible cost.

Professional CV's for Johnathan Pease and Carolyn Hanes are available on request.

Where are the offices?

Endeavour House
Coopers End Road
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