

FMC Newsletter

January 2020



Recent FMC Developments

Family Mediation Survey 2019

A very big “thank you” to everybody who completed the FMC’s Family Mediation Survey in the autumn. Key highlights from the survey are:

- That family mediation works - it results in whole or partial agreement in 73% of cases.
- 73% of cases proceed to mediation, if a mediator sees both parties for an assessment meeting.
- Mediators charge £140 (including any VAT) per person per hour for mediation, on average.
- The average total cost for both participants to attend a MIAM, a successful mediation, and any relevant outcome documentation is £1641.
- The amount of Child Inclusive Mediation which is taking place has more than doubled to 26% of relevant cases, since 2017.

The full survey results can be seen [here](#). The FMC will use these survey results to inform its work over the next few years.

Family Mediation Week – 20-24 January 2020

The FMC is pleased to be supporting Family Mediation Week, which aims to raise awareness of mediation and its benefits for separating families.

Organised by FMA, but open to all family mediators to participate, the theme of the week for 2020 is ‘Conversations’. FMC directors Ewan Malcolm and Jane Robey are recording interviews about the results of the FMC’s survey, which shows that mediation works to help family members settle their disputes.

Mediators can customise a press release using [this template](#) to send to local newspapers during the week, and are encouraged to share articles/interviews/information published as part of the Family Mediation Week as widely as possible. See the Family Mediation Week website [here](#) for further ideas.

Annual Registration 2020

Registration for 2020 is now open – to remain on the FMC register, all mediators must re-register every year. Mediators were sent invitations to re-register in mid-December, and the forms and guidance for 2020 are available on the FMC website [here](#). We have a small office team and it will help us enormously if you can read the Registration Guidance carefully, and send in properly-completed registration forms by 31st January!

If you have not received an invitation to re-register, please check your junk/spam e-mail folder. If you still cannot find the e-mail, please contact register@familymediationcouncil.org.uk stating your name, and your URN, and ask for the e-mail to be resent.

Recent FMC Submissions

The FMC has submitted a [response](#) to the interim report published by Professor Stephen Mayson at UCL as part of his [Review of Legal Services Regulation](#). The independent review is intended in part to explore the longer-term and related issues raised by the 2016 Competition and Markets Authority's (CMA) Legal Services Market Study and its recommendations.

The FMC has also had the opportunity to comment on draft Best Practice Guidance on domestic abuse which is being developed by the Family Justice Council. The FMC was concerned that the impression given in the draft guidance was that mediation is to be avoided where there has been domestic abuse. While the Family Mediation Council agrees that mediation may not be appropriate in certain cases involving domestic abuse, it considers that the abused person should be able to mediate if it safe and they choose to do so. Our response pointed out that mediation has advantages that the court cannot replicate, including giving participants a voice, and the chance to make decisions for themselves. We therefore suggested some changes to the draft to reflect this, and look forward to seeing the revised guidance once the FJC has had an opportunity to consider consultees' responses.

Rethinking Support for Separating Families

In November, our Executive Officer, Helen Anthony, attended an event jointly hosted by the Nuffield Foundation and CAFCASS 'Rethinking support for separating families: A scoping event to improve the response to parental disputes about child arrangements'. The purpose of the day was to explore what a Supporting Separating Families Alliance (SSFA) might look like. SSFAs were suggested by the Private Law Working Group as part of the Child Arrangements Programme (CAP) Review.

Lots of interesting ideas were explored – these [illustrated notes](#) are an excellent summary of discussions. However, the FMC remains concerned about who will fund and co-ordinate a central national service to lead any such project.

Opportunities for Mediators

Please see the FMC website [here](#) for information about opportunities for mediators, including:

- Opportunities for Accredited mediators with National Family Mediation across England and Wales.
- Accredited Family Mediators in Peterborough, Loughborough, Bedford and Milton Keynes for Family Law Group Ltd
- Family Mediator Vacancy: Norfolk Family Mediation Service

Upcoming Events & Training

The FMC aims to bring you information about training, courses and workshops related to family mediation, to aid professional development. Courses are also listed on our [website](#), where you will find more details about submitting events to be included.

CIM Courses

- 21 January, Resolution: [CIM Understanding and Awareness Day](#), London
- 23 January, Resolution: [CIM Update Day](#), Poole
- 5 February, NFM: [CIM Update Day](#), London
- 11 February, NFM: [CIM Awareness and Understanding Day](#), London
- 19 March, FMA: [CIM Awareness and Understanding Day](#), London
- 20 March, FMA: [CIM Update Day](#), London
- 23 – 25 March, FMA: [Child Inclusive Mediation Training](#), London
- 31 March, Resolution: [CIM Update Day](#), London
- 21 – 23 April, NFM: [Child Inclusive Mediation Training](#), London
- 22 – 24 April, Resolution: [CIM Foundation Training](#), London
- 29 April, NFM: [CIM Update Day](#), Birmingham
- 30 April, NFM: [CIM Awareness and Understanding Day](#), Birmingham
- 13 May, Adrian Wright Mediation: [CIM Introduction](#), Southampton
- 14 May – 16 May, Adrian Wright Mediation: CIM Training, Southampton. To apply contact judi.lyons@ntlworld.com or achieve.it@virgin.net

- 14 May, NFM: [CIM Update Day](#), London
- 29 June, FMA: [CIM Awareness and Understanding Day](#), Leeds
- 1 July, FMA: [CIM Update Day](#), Leeds
- 8 July, NFM: [CIM Awareness and Understanding Day](#), London

Please visit our website for CIM courses that take place after July

PPC Courses

- 31 March, FMA: [PPC Update of Theory and Practice](#), London
- 22 September, FMA: [PPC Update of Theory and Practice](#), Leeds
- 1 December, FMA: [PPC Update of Theory and Practice](#), London
- Ongoing, NFM Training: [Professional Practice Consultancy Training](#), Distance learning

Other CPD Courses

- 24 March, FMA: [Mini Conference – ‘FMA On The Road’](#), Peterborough
- 25 March, Resolution: [Deepening without Drowning – Conflict Skills for Mediators and Collaborative Professionals](#), London
- Dates TBC – March, April, May, Devon & Exeter Mediation Practice: [Effective Screening for Domestic Abuse](#), various locations including London, Bristol, Bournemouth and Birmingham. Contact ac@devexmediation.co.uk for more information and to register interest
- 27 April (and later dates), LBA Excellence: [Family Mediation Refresher Training](#), London
- 12 May, FMA: [Sustainable Agreements](#), Leeds
- 20 May, FMA: [Using Communication Theory in working with stress and conflict in mediation](#), London
- 3 June, FMA: [Increasing Empathy in your mediation practice](#), London
- 4 June, FMA: [Putting Children First in Mediation – Building Parent Partnerships](#), London
- 30 June, FMA: [Mini Conference – ‘FMA On The Road’](#), Leeds

- 2 July, FMA: [The Child's Developmental Journey through Divorce and Separation – The Neuroscience of Change](#), Leeds
- 14-16 October, NFM: [Refresher Training for Family Mediators](#), London
- 21 October, FMA: [Using Communication Theory in working with stress and conflict in mediation](#), Leeds
- 3 November, FMA: [Mini Conference – 'FMA On The Road'](#), Derby
- 20 November, FMA: [Sustainable Agreements](#), London

Introductory and Foundation Courses

- 29 January 2020, LBA Excellence: [Simply Sorting it Out – free one day taster of mediation training](#), London
- 10 February 2020 (and later dates), FMA: [Foundation Training Programme](#), London
- 1 March 2020 (and later dates), NFM: [Foundation Family Mediation Training](#), distance learning & London
- 2 March 2020 (and later dates), Resolution: [Mediation Foundation Training](#), London
- 19 March 2020 (and later dates), LBA Excellence: [Mediation Foundation Training](#), London
- 1 June 2020 (and later dates), NFM: [Foundation Family Mediation Training](#), distance learning & London
- 23 September 2020 (and later dates), FMA: [Foundation Training Programme](#), Leeds
- 1 October 2020 (and later dates), NFM: [Foundation Family Mediation Training](#), distance learning & London

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