

Family mediation

Family mediation is a process in which an **independent, professional mediator** helps you work out **arrangements for children and for finances** following separation.

Family mediation can also be helpful when **arrangements you've made before need to change**, particularly **as your children grow up**.

Family mediation helps you keep **more control of your family's future**.

Family mediation...

- helps you make arrangements about **parenting, property and money**
- **is less stressful** than going to court
- **saves you money** as it's usually much cheaper than being represented in court
- **helps you** put your **child's interests** first
- **helps you move on** quickly to the next stage of your life.

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Practical tips for family mediation

- **Legal Aid is available for family mediation.**
This may cover the cost of mediation sessions and a MIAM. Eligibility is based on your financial situation.
- The Government's time-limited family mediation voucher scheme provides **a one-off financial contribution of up to £500** for cases that include issues about children.
- **Your first meeting gives you an opportunity to explain your situation one-to-one with the mediator confidentially** and find out more about how mediation might work for you. This is known as a Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting (MIAM).
- For families who **have experienced domestic abuse, the mediator will talk to you confidentially to assess the suitability** of family mediation for your case.
- Family mediation sessions can be undertaken in **languages other than English**.

To **find a family mediator near you** and for information about help with funding, visit:
<https://www.familymediationcouncil.org.uk>

Family Mediation Council registration is what you must look for when choosing a mediator.