



Family Mediation

Mediation is a voluntary process. It offers separating couples (whether married, unmarried or same sex partners) an opportunity to meet face to face in a neutral environment with the support and assistance of an impartial, specially trained mediator, to discuss, and hopefully agree, issues relating to the end of their relationship. Such issues commonly include:

- the division of capital and property,
- the parties' housing needs,
- arrangements relating to the financial support and day to day care of any dependant children.

Discussions that take place in mediation are confidential. Further, as it is entirely voluntary, either party is free to withdraw from the process at any time. Any agreement reached in mediation will not be legally binding until both parties convert that agreement into a legally binding document.

What are the advantages of Mediation?

It is important to stress that mediation does not replace legal advice or act as a bar to parties seeking such advice. Parties engaging in mediation are free to take advice from a solicitor at any stage during the mediation process. If an agreement is reached parties will be encouraged by the mediator to seek independent legal advice on the contents before that agreement is converted into a legally binding format. We therefore see mediation as a complement to legal advice. Some of the advantages of mediation are as follows;

- It is generally considerably cheaper than both parties instructing solicitors from the outset.
- It is usually quicker than instructing solicitors to negotiate. If an agreement is achieved in mediation, this usually happens within 3-5 sessions.
- Even if an agreement is not achieved the parties will leave the process with a better understanding of the issues in dispute and also having dealt with financial disclosure
- It enables the parties to continue communicating directly in a neutral and supportive environment. Our experience is that this can help to reduce conflict between parties in the aftermath of separation. This can be particularly important where children are involved. It also enables the parties to keep control of their situation and to jointly make decisions important to their lives and those of their children who can benefit from seeing their parents work jointly to consider their welfare
- It aims to avoid the painful "win-lose" situation commonly associated with the legal or Court process

What does the Mediation process involve?

One or two of our mediators will initially meet with you and your former partner individually to ensure that you are both satisfied that mediation is the right option for you. If so, joint sessions will follow, generally between 3-5, depending on the nature and complexity of the issues. We would usually use the first meeting to set out an agenda of the issues to be discussed and maybe to discuss any urgent or pressing matters, such as the day to day arrangements for the children

After this meeting we would move on to consider financial arrangements (if applicable) and explain to you the documents and information that will be required from both parties to enable open discussions to take place. We always remember that the process belongs to the parties and you will determine the agenda and pace of the mediation sessions.

At the end of the mediation process you will each be provided with a document called a “Memorandum of Understanding”, which will clearly set out the issues discussed, and any agreement reached. This will place you in the best possible position to seek legal advice on any of the issues discussed or agreement reached during the process .

Why choose Rowberry Morris Mediators?

Our mediation team are all solicitors with many years of experience in the practice of Family Law. We therefore have the necessary expertise to guide couples towards achieving fair and realistic outcomes. Due to our experience as Family lawyers we bring a calm, personable and focused approach to our mediation practice. We have been trained as mediators by the organisation Resolution, widely regarded as promoting the highest standards in mediation practice.

We can offer mediation with one mediator or, if preferred co mediation which involves two of our mediators working together. Parties who may prefer, for example, to have mediation with both a man and a woman. Our mediators are as follows;

Julie Gallimore

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Peter Reynolds

Clockhouse Chambers, 4a The Square, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1DZ
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Appointments would be offered at one of our offices above. Additionally appointments can be offered at our Staines office 15 Clarence Street, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4SU and our Reading Office 17 Castle Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7SB. We are happy to arrange our meetings at the location most convenient to you.

To find out more about Rowberry Morris Mediation or to arrange an appointment please contact any of our mediators via email or telephone as detailed above .Please also visit our website at www.rowberrymorris.co.uk for details of other legal services offered by Rowberry Morris

