

Our Qualified Mediators can offer you:

A professional service tailored to your needs and timescales.

A cost effective service when not entitled to Public Funding (Legal Aid).

An opportunity to make workable decisions and to move forward in a positive way.

A safe neutral environment in which to mediate effectively to reach long lasting agreements that will benefit you and your children

Mediation will help you to:

Feel in control of the situation and communicate effectively.

Work toward practical and realistic decisions in the best interests for your children and to decide about future arrangements.

In some cases a Child Contact Court Order may be in place however, by attending family mediation will enable you to reach decisions and agreements about how you manage your child contact arrangements and still be in control of your lives.

Impact Family Mediation Service operate within the Legal Services Commission Quality Mark and is affiliated to National Family Mediation code of practice, regulated by the Family Mediation Council

Agreements reached in mediation are recorded but are not legally binding, however, in cases involving Property & Finance a legal agreement can be drawn up by solicitors using outcome of mediation statements provided to produce a court order which will be legally binding.

Impact Family Services

Impact Family Mediation
37 West Sunnyside, Sunderland SR1 1BU

Tel: 0191 567 8282

Fax: 0191 565 6708

Email: enquiresmediation@impactfs.co.uk

Impact Child Contact Centre

(Covering Sunderland, South Shields and Durham)

Tel: 0191 510 3182

Fax: 0191 565 6708

Email: enquirescontactcentre@impactfs.co.uk

Impact Anti Bullying Service

Tel: 0191 566 0622

Fax: 0191 565 6708

Email: enquiresantibullying@impactfs.co.uk

Impact

Family Services

WORKING WITH YOU TO ACHIEVE
A POSITIVE FUTURE

Family Mediation Service

Family Mediation is a service with an aim of building more positive futures for families who are experiencing the transitional period after separation, divorce or families in conflict

For further information please

Contact us on:

0191 567 8282

Or visit our website at:

www.impactfs.org

First Step - Information Meeting

The first meeting will be an information sharing meeting which will last around 45 minutes. There is no charge for the information meeting.

The mediator will meet with each party either separately or together to find out about the current situation and issues that need to be discussed in mediation.

A financial assessment will be carried out to see if you are eligible for Public Funding. The mediator will need to see evidence of income from all sources.

If you are entitled to Public Funding (Legal Aid), the costs of your case will be fully covered by the Legal Services Commission.

If you are not entitled to Public Funding (Legal Aid), there is a cost for each mediation session. Child Only cases £95.00 per session (per person if not eligible for Public Funding) and Child, Property & Finance cases £150.00 per session (per person if not eligible for Public Funding). Details of costs will be given to you at the information meeting.

Once the mediator has carried out information meetings with both parties and the case is suitable for mediation, a joint mediation appointment will be arranged.

How long will the mediation take?

The number of meetings will depend on the number and complexity of the issues that need to be resolved.

Child only issues will take around two sessions, maybe more depending on the issues, each session lasting approximately one hour.

Child Only Issues

Major decisions affecting children may include:

- Where the children live.
- What arrangements will be made for them to spend time with each parent and other relatives.
- What provision might need to be made in terms of education and health.
- What financial support is required to meet their needs.
- How to get children's views, needs, wishes and feelings.

The Legal Services Commission suggests that if you were to handle Child Contact issues through The Family Court rather than using Family Mediation, costs for child issue cases could cost between £2000 - £4000 or more.

What happens during mediation?

Property & Finance cases, which can also include child issues can take around two or three sessions, lasting around 1.5 hours per session.

If your case involves Property & Finance the mediator will assist you to make sure all the relevant information and documents are gathered.

Property & Finance

Issues and decisions that are likely to be resolved are:

- Who should live in the property?
- Should the property be sold (in the case of rented property, should the tenancy be transferred?)
- How should any proceeds be shared?
- What should happen to possessions?

The Legal Services Commission suggests that if you were to handle financial issues through court rather than use Family Mediation, the costs could be between £1000 - £5000 or more.