

Slater & Gordon Lawyers
Mediation Services



Past the point where you can have a civil conversation? That's when talking matters most. Mediation by Slater & Gordon can help.



What is mediation?

Mediation is an alternative to court proceedings for couples who are separating. It can help you sort out assets, finances and care arrangements for your children without the cost, stress and delay of going to court. Throughout the process you'll be working with an independent third party - the 'mediator' - who can help you reach an agreement you both feel comfortable with.

Is mediation for me?

If you're going through a divorce or separation and you have children, property and/or pensions, mediation can help make the process easier. Perhaps you disagree on who your children will live with, where they'll go to school, medical matters or contact arrangements. Perhaps you need to reach an agreement on the division of finances or property. Mediation can help you reach an agreement that works for both of you, enlisting the independent help of financial advisors, accountants and valuers to help you reach better solutions where necessary.

Mediation is not usually considered suitable if there has been domestic violence.

Does mediation work?

Yes - and in all sorts of ways:

- ▶ Keep control: You stay in control of what happens to your children, property and money. You don't have a judge telling you what to do
- ▶ Reduce stress: The whole point of mediation is reaching sensible solutions in a calm, considered way. Previous parties to mediation say it's far less stressful - and far less acrimonious - than going to court
- ▶ Compliance: Because you make the decisions the arrangements you make are far more likely to 'stick'
- ▶ Practical support: Having a trained mediator who can also give legal advice can save you time and help you reach better decisions
- ▶ Speed: Litigation through the courts takes time. Whilst mediation can also take time to reach an agreement, it's invariably the faster option.
- ▶ Reduce cost: Going to court can be eye-wateringly expensive. Mediation is usually cheaper - often considerably cheaper.

"Start a conversation that will make everyone's lives better. Try mediation with Slater & Gordon Lawyers"

What will happen during mediation?

You'll begin with a Mediation Information Assessment Meeting (MIAM) which you can attend with or without your ex partner. This is where you tell us about your situation and we explain how mediation can help.

If you agree to proceed, the mediator will arrange your first session, which you will attend together. The mediator will set out the agenda, help you explore the issues and get you working towards an agreement.

The agreement you reach is not legally binding, but it can be made binding by drafting and filing it as part of a court order. We can do this for you.

How long does it take?

Each mediation session usually lasts between one and two hours. How many sessions you need depends on the number of issues to resolve and how quickly you're able to reach an agreement. Usually it takes between one and five sessions.

How much does it cost?

Your MIAM meeting is £89 (plus VAT) if you attend on your own or £130 (plus VAT) between you if you attend together. Thereafter mediation sessions cost £150 plus VAT per hour per person, a rate that is lower than most family lawyers.

Mediation with Slater & Gordon

Mediation is more than a way to reach an agreement. It can help the whole family establish new 'ground rules' for the way you'll live, communicate and relate to each other. It can make the process after separation easier for you – and it can make it easier for your children to cope at an uncertain time.

Slater & Gordon is one of the UK's leading and largest legal practices. Our mediators are also experienced family lawyers. That means they can help you reach agreement and provide impartial legal information that helps you make better, longer lasting decisions.

For more details please:

Telephone: 0808 175 8089

E-mail: enquiries@slatergordon.co.uk

Website: slatergordon.co.uk/familymediation

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