



Mediation in family law

Call us on 0333 344 4885

working
with you,
for you

Stephensons

Mediation

Stephensons have solicitors who are trained mediators and able to conduct Mediation Initial Assessment Meetings, also known as MIAMs. Mediators must be specifically qualified in the field and there are a limited number of solicitors able to offer this service in the North West.

Mediation is particularly useful in family cases where there will be an ongoing relationship due to children following resolving the dispute. Additionally, there is currently a requirement, that before applying to the family Court, people will need to prove they've used mediation first. Mediation can often be a much more cost effective solution than going to court. In order to demonstrate that mediation has been considered they should:

- Show they are exempt from having to consider mediation, for example, if domestic violence is involved; or
- Prove to the judge that they have been to a 'mediation information and assessment meeting' with a family mediator but that mediation is not suitable for them. We are able to conduct these meetings and are qualified to do so.

When a relationship is breaking down experience shows that the first thing to go is effective communication which can lead to all sorts of situations and misunderstandings which in turn impacts upon trust. Mediation facilitates working together to reach joint decisions without using the Court system, whether about the practicalities of separating, what to do about the division of assets or how to share time with the children.

We are regularly approached by couples to help them through the mediation process. To speak to us confidentially about mediation call us on: **0333 344 4885** or email **enquiries@stephensons.co.uk**.

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Mediation

Mediators do not make decisions or impose a way forward but can help a couple find a resolution. This can save costs and emotions. Jonathan Djanogly, former Minister for Justice commented that in disputes concerning children “parents are best placed to resolve these types of issues and mediation can help them to do this”.

Our mediation experts have the facilities to invite couples to meet in a calm and comfortable environment, to talk freely and to work through any difficulties surrounding the ending of the relationship and having reached an agreement this is recorded in detail in a Memorandum of Understanding which is taken away by the couple to use going forward.

Separating couples may also consider

- DIY - reach an agreement between yourselves
- Collaborative law
- Arbitration
- Shared parenting agreements
- Using a lawyer through the Court process

It is important to choose the correct option for your situation and our team can help you in making the right choice.

For more information on mediation or any aspect of family law speak to our legal advisers on [0333 344 4885](tel:03333444885).





Working with you, for you

At Stephenson's our clients are real people and they live and work in the real world - which at times can be an unpredictable place. But whatever it throws at them we're never far away to help. Because we're real people too and we understand our clients' needs. Our similarities mean we can work side-by-side to get the best outcome possible. It also means we can tailor our legal costs and services to lots of different circumstances. Ensuring everyone gets the representation and result they deserve for their individual circumstances. Our business is to deliver legal services that work for our clients, so you can trust our specialists to take care of things on your behalf.

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