



## Mediation information and assessment meetings (MIAM)

The purpose of this Stowe guide is to give you information if you are considering a MIAM and family mediation.

### 1. Why do people have to attend a MIAM?

- To encourage them to use alternative resolution methods instead of Court proceedings to sort out a dispute that has arisen
- To ensure parties have considered mediation as an option.

### 2. When should mediation be considered?

- Mediation can take place before proceedings are issued and may mean that Court can be avoided all together
- Mediation can also take place during Court proceedings. A Court may order that parties should attend mediation between hearings or parties may ask the Court to adjourn matters to allow mediation to take place
- Mediation can take place after proceedings have finished where there may still be some issues to work through for both parties to make Court Orders work, or deal with issues that fell outside of the Court proceedings.

### 3. What can be dealt with in mediation?

- Contact or residence disputes over children
- Planning for trial separations
- Financial arrangements on separation
- Issues arising from divorce or a breakup
- Financial settlements on divorce
- Formulating Parenting Plans
- Helping to make a Child Arrangement Order work for the family.

### 4. How does it work?

- Participation is voluntary
- It takes place in a safe, neutral environment
- Screening takes place for suitability to mediate
- Mediation usually involves both parties and the mediator together, but if there cannot be agreement there is shuttle mediation. This is where the parties are not in the same room and the mediator moves between them
- It provides an opportunity for the parties to discuss their concerns and to reflect on the position of the other party
- It can lead to a deeper understanding of the issues for both parties
- It is a confidential process.



If agreement is reached, a Memorandum of Agreement is drawn up and signed by both parties. It is not binding like a Court Order, but can be used with the help of the parties' solicitors to convert into a binding order where this is considered necessary.

### 5. How long does it last?

MIAM sessions are about 45 minutes in duration.

Full mediation can vary as to how many are needed to resolve the issue, but the average is between 3 and 5 sessions. Each session is usually booked for 1 hour and 30 minutes.

### Costs

An accredited Family Mediator usually charges from £100 +VAT for a MIAM.

Full mediation per hour is from £350 +VAT per hour shared between both parties.

Many legal disputes will cost anything from £5,000 to £25,000+ +VAT to resolve matters and that is the cost for each party. If mediation is used and is successful, the savings on legal costs are significant.

### Need more information?

Call our Client Care Team on **0330 838 7456** to speak with one of our specialist family lawyers or visit [www.stowefamilylaw.co.uk](http://www.stowefamilylaw.co.uk)