



divorce?
separation?

see through the confusion

with the help of

Surrey Family & Mediation Services



Surrey Family
& Mediation Services

The Service

- We have been mediating in Surrey since 1981, one of the first such services in the UK.
- We are the only not for profit service in the county.
- We are affiliated to National Family Mediation, the professional organisation for not for profit family mediation services.
- We operate out of seven offices across Surrey.
- All our mediators have achieved Legal Services Commission recognition.
- All our mediators are members of the UK College of Family Mediators.

Who can use our service?

- Couples going through separation and divorce.
- Parents seeking to discuss or renegotiate arrangements for their children.
- Grandparents or other relatives seeking to discuss arrangements for time spent with children.

What can be discussed in mediation?

- Future arrangements for children.
- All financial issues associated with separation and divorce.
- How your agreements can be made legally binding.
- Any other issues which are important to both of you.

Can children have a voice in mediation?

- Children are encouraged to have a separate appointment with a mediator, provided this is agreed upon with both parents.

What does it cost?

- As a not for profit service we operate a sliding scale of fees based on gross income.
- The level of fee due will be assessed at the initial meeting.
- We have a franchise with the Legal Services Commission (LSC) to offer free mediation to those who are eligible.
- We do not charge for meetings with children.

What mediators do

- Provide a safe, neutral and confidential environment to discuss your issues together.
- Make suggestions without telling you what to do. We do not take sides.
- Help you both arrive at agreed proposals for the future, which suit you and your family.

- Check any concerns about violence, intimidation and child safety and ensure that both parties wish to participate in mediation.
- Provide flexible appointments, you can have as many or as few as you need.
- Prepare documents to enable legally binding agreements to be drawn up where appropriate.
- Suggest other sources of advice or information that might be helpful to you.

Mediators do not

- Provide counselling – we can give you a list of recognised counsellors.
- Give advice – you will need a solicitor to refer to for individual legal advice and to prepare legally binding agreements if you wish.
- Make decisions – you are the only people who reach decisions in mediation the mediator will not tell you what to do.
- Communicate with you individually between appointments – mediators are impartial and even-handed.
- Make reports to Courts or other agencies. Discussions within mediation are not disclosed to third parties.

“Family disputes that are resolved through mediation are cheaper, quicker and, according to academic research, less acrimonious than those that are settled through the courts”

Report from the National Audit Office 2/3/07
www.nao.org.uk

The next step...

- You can arrange an information meeting to hear more about our Service to enable you and your partner to decide if you both want to proceed to mediation.
- You can have separate or joint information meetings, it is up to you. However, any future mediation meetings are joint.
- Please telephone for further discussion and information on **01372 749911**.

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