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IBB solicitors

Family mediation



What is mediation?

It is a process to help you resolve your family differences such as your finances or arrangements for your children upon separation, without going to court. It is not relationship counselling.

It is voluntary and the discussions are confidential (apart from in exceptional circumstances).

What happens?

A mediator will meet you both to discuss the issues you want to sort out.

The mediator is impartial. He will manage the discussions and will make sure you can both speak freely and openly in calm surroundings.

The mediator will help you reach decisions about your future by looking at various options. He can give you legal and financial information though not advice.

If a solution is reached, a Memorandum of Understanding will be prepared together with an open summary of financial information (where appropriate).

Depending on the complexity of your situation, you may need between 2-5 meetings. These usually last for one and a half hours.

You can end the mediation at any time if you don't feel it is right to continue.

Is it better than court?

- In most cases, yes! You can make informed decisions about your future without the court imposing an order on you. It is much quicker.
- It will reduce any conflict between you.
- It will be much cheaper than going to court or becoming bogged down in protracted communications through solicitors.
- Mediation may not be suitable if there are domestic violence issues, child protection concerns or where one or other person is not prepared to be open or frank about your situation.

Do you need a solicitor?

It is recommended that you take legal advice during the process. You should certainly do so when you reach an overall solution to check that you remain satisfied with the proposals. These can then be converted into a binding court order. You may only need one meeting with your solicitor.

What will it cost?

- It will cost £112.50 per person/per hour plus VAT.
- Typically three meetings together with a Memorandum of Understanding and an open summary of financial information will cost each person around £750 plus VAT. This is a fraction of the cost of court proceedings.

What should I do next?

- Contact us to arrange an appointment. You can come to our South Bucks or Uxbridge offices or we can arrange to meet you at another convenient location.

Endorsements

Independent legal directories interview clients every year to rank legal firms. Here are some of their findings over the past few years:

Richard Phillips focuses his practice on mid to high net worth financial disputes, often further complicated by international issues. One satisfied client notes that “he was knowledgeable, both in his specialist area and in how people think and work.” Phillips is also a trained mediator and collaborative lawyer.

Chambers and Partners

Amanda Melton specialises in complicated financial proceedings and private children law matters. She is greatly admired by clients, with one noting that “she is unflappable, calm, collected and always has an answer for any problem.”

Chambers and Partners

Delivering ‘sensible and practical advice’, IBB (Iliffes Booth Bennett) now has a full ADR family practice. The ‘very empathetic and considerate’ Richard Phillips leads the department and has experience in handling mid to high-asset cases, often with international elements.

Chambers and Partners

“The ‘extremely conscientious’ Richard Phillips heads the team at IBB.”

Legal 500

IBB ‘guarantees a highly professional service’ and ‘unhesitatingly goes the extra mile’.

Legal 500

Our expertise

Our specialist divorce solicitors can help you with:

- Divorce, separation and dissolution of civil partnerships
- Financial settlement, pension sharing, property, maintenance and other assets
- Unmarried and same sex couples where children and/or joint property are involved
- Mediation through our lawyers who are trained mediators
- Collaborative law
- Children – residence, contact, specific issues, wardship, adoption, children in care
- Pre- and post-nuptial agreements, pre- and post-civil partnership agreements
- Cohabitation agreements
- High net worth divorces, including international elements

Our mediation specialist



Richard Phillips

Partner

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Richard Phillips qualified as solicitor in 1991. He has over 22 years' experience of Family Law matters. He is a Partner with IBB and Head of the Family Team.

Richard trained as a Mediator in 1999 and has undertaken many mediations since then. He is accredited by Resolution, the main organisation for family lawyers. He is ranked in the top tier of solicitors in the area.

Our other family law experts



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