

Established in 1983, Kent Family Mediation Service is a non-profit making, registered charity.

We aim to operate in partnership with clients and operate an equal opportunities policy and complaints procedure for service users.

In order to continually improve the service we provide we value client feedback and will send a questionnaire after the completion of your mediation. The information you provide will be used for the benefit of future service users.



Kent Family Mediation Service

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Tel 01795 410 457

Registered Charity No. 1087460 Registered in England No. 4186544

Appointments

We have several meeting places throughout Kent and, where possible, we will make appointments at a mutually convenient venue and time. Please telephone our trained staff, 9.30 am to 5pm Monday to Friday, for all enquiries, fees and appointments. A 24 hour answering service is available and we will endeavour to return your call as soon as possible.

How long will it take?

Typically mediation on arrangements for children can take 2-3 meetings and mediation including finance and property can take 3-5 meetings.

Is mediation safe?

Joint initial meetings may not always be appropriate, particularly when there are concerns about violent or abusive behaviour. If you have any such concerns, please let us know when you contact us.

What will it cost?

Mediation will be free if you are eligible for Public Funding (Legal Aid). Everyone is offered the opportunity to be assessed. If you are not eligible then our subsidised fees will apply.

As a 'not for profit' service all of our fees are subsidised through grants and donations. This makes mediation a very cost effective way to resolve your dispute.



The Way Forward When a Relationship Ends

Kent Family Mediation Service

Family mediation is a service for couples, parents and families involved at any stage of separation or divorce.

It is a way to consider and resolve issues which may arise following the end of a relationship, such as future living or parenting arrangements, property and finance.

What do we offer?

We can provide you with:

- An initial meeting, usually together, to help you decide whether mediation is right for you. Individual meetings can also be arranged.
- If there is mutual consent to proceed, a series of joint meetings will be offered, to focus on the issues you wish to resolve.
- An impartial, trained mediator who will safely manage your discussions in a carefully structured way.
- The opportunity to remain in charge of your own decisions.
- A comprehensive statement of any agreed proposals at the end of mediation, which can be made into a binding agreement.
- Respect for all concerned.

Is mediation confidential?

Mediation is independent of the courts and is confidential. What you say in mediation cannot be used in court later if the mediation breaks down.

However, this does not apply to the factual information that you provide such as details of your income or property, which can be used in any later Court proceedings and passed to lawyers.

We are committed to protecting children. We cannot guarantee confidentiality where there is reason to believe that children are at risk of significant harm.

We will **NOT**

- Judge you or your family
- Take sides
- Offer advice
- Talk to other people about what you tell us (unless children are at risk of significant harm).