

What will it cost?

It will cost £125 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-£875 plus VAT. This is a fraction of the cost of court proceedings.

What next?

Please get in touch to arrange an appointment. You can come to our Berkhamsted, Hemel Hempstead or Luton offices. Sometimes we can arrange other meeting places.

What the experts say

Richard Phillips is recommended and named in the leading solicitors directories, Chambers and the Legal 500. He is praised as a *“delightful individual and a resolution seeker”*. One impressed interviewer affirmed, *“I rate Richard very highly. He is very able and gives sensible advice to his clients”*.

Mediation Specialist



Richard Phillips qualified as a solicitor in 1991. He has over 27 years' experience of family law matters. He is an accredited mediator and a qualified collaborative lawyer. He is also a Member of the Law Society's family panel and an accredited specialist with Resolution.

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Family mediation – Helping you reach agreement



What is mediation?

Mediation 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.

Usually the mediator would arrange an initial meeting with you together or separately to discuss your different options and to see if mediation is suitable for you. This is called a Mediation Information and Assessment meeting (MIAM).

If you want to proceed, the mediation process can start. If you prefer you can be in separate rooms and there can be another mediator, sometimes from a counselling background.

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?

Yes. You can make informed decisions about your future without the court imposing an order on you and it is quicker.

It can reduce conflict and improve communication.

It will be much cheaper than going to court or becoming bogged down in protracted communications through solicitors.

You have an equal say in the process. There is no judgement of you.

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 about your situation.

Bringing real benefit

Mediation eases the pain of family breakdown through:

- Reducing tension and hostility
- Helping you make informed decisions that are right for your circumstances
- Keeping communication channels open
- Helping children by showing their parents working together to resolve issues

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