

## **USEFUL INFORMATION FOR YOUR CLIENT**

We are pleased that you have chosen to proceed with Mediation through Dootsons as it can be a very positive experience for a number of reasons, although we appreciate you will of course be anxious about what to expect. We have highlighted below some of the more common questions and reasons to proceed through Mediation with Dootsons.

### **WHAT IS MEDIATION?**

Mediation is designed to enable discussions between you. The Fully Qualified Mediator provides a safe, confidential and controlled environment for those discussions to take place and takes a neutral role in helping you both through that process over the course of a number of sessions.

### **WHY MEDIATE?**

- Mediation has a very high success rate
- The majority of people who try mediation feel that they have had some real benefit from the process
- You also have a legal obligation to attend a mediation information meeting before the court process can be commenced
- It's cheaper than court
- It's quicker than court
- Mediation is family focused
- It's less formal
- You can look at options without being bound by them
- You control the progress, not the Court
- You control the outcome, not a Judge
- It can work with or alongside the legal process also
- Enables you to look at the practicalities
- It can be stopped at any stage

### **WHY DOOTSONS MEDIATORS?**

- We have are very experienced at mediating family disputes
- We have Fully Qualified FMCA Mediators, accredited by the Family Mediation Council.
- We can see you in any of our offices
- our Mediator is also a fully qualified practicing Senior Family Law Solicitor and has full legal knowledge and understanding of your circumstances to aid you throughout the mediation process
- We are a Highly Professional Firm

#### **WHAT DOES IT COST?**

- We offer Fixed Fee Price Saving Deals
- We Have a variety of offers from time-to-time to make it as cost effective as possible, please don't hesitate to ask about our current offers
- The Costs can be split jointly with the other person equally or by agreement between you

#### **WHAT CAN I EXPECT:-**

- 2-6 joint sessions
- You will not be in a room alone together
- Managed communal areas
- At any point the mediation can be stopped
- Aside rooms will be provided if breaks are needed
- No obligation to proceed
- Informal process
- Obligations of appropriate civil behavior
- We can even mediate with you each in separate rooms

Mediation is a process in which an impartial third person (the Mediator) assists those involved in family breakdowns to communicate better with one another and to reach their own agreed and informed decisions about some or all of the issues relating to or arising from separation, divorce, children, finance or property.

We will seek to help you both to be clear about the questions that need to be settled, to deal with these questions according to the priority you want to give them and to help you gather the financial information that may be needed and help you both consider ways forward and the possible options available.

In the joint mediation sessions confidential discussions will take place. The mediator will maintain a neutral role throughout the process and offers guidance upon the mediation but not legal advice.

Mediators can provide some general information about matrimonial and family law and can explain the ways in which a settlement can be made legally binding, but they do not advise you on the course of action you should take, separately or jointly or provide legal advice upon the issues. As our Mediator is a currently practicing Matrimonial and Children Lawyer, she is extremely Qualified to help you both with these issues.

The Mediators' role is to be impartial, not to make judgments or take sides but to deal with you both as equally as possible.

The discussions you have within mediation are not legally binding.

At the end of the process, the Mediator can draw up any proposals and you will be recommended to take these to your solicitor who will advise you on those proposals and draft them into a legally binding agreement, if appropriate.

The decisions remain yours, but the Mediator will seek to help you with your decisions, without urging you in one direction or another. This is where mediation is often much better than Court, where ultimately a Judge may decide things for you.

In these difficult times it is generally better if both of you can sort out together the practical arrangements for the future.

Mediation can help reduce tension, hostility and misunderstandings and so improve communication between you. This is especially important if you have children, as you may need to co-operate over their care and upbringing for some years to come, especially when Lawyers and Courts have gone away.

We hope that you chose Dootsons to help you address some of your issues through Mediation. We anticipate that it may be helpful for us to provide this information to the other person and his/her solicitor in advance also or you may wish to ask your solicitor to do so for you, as it may help him/her consider some of the benefits that mediation can offer too .

If we can help further, please do not hesitate to contact your Mediator, Angie Brown

[www.dootsons.co.uk](http://www.dootsons.co.uk)

Email: [abrown@dootsons.co.uk](mailto:abrown@dootsons.co.uk)

Tel: 01942 673431