Children 1st Mediation

Specialist Family Mediators

Sorting Out Child Arrangements

No matter how long it has been since you separated it can be challenging to agree on things as parents. It's natural for parents to find it difficult to agree on certain matters, especially regarding how much time your child spends with each of you. When it comes to important decisions about your child's future, emotions can run high, and discussions may feel overwhelming.

At Children 1st Mediation, we are here to support you through this process. Our experienced mediators can help you find a way forward that prioritises the best interests of your child, while respecting both of your perspectives.

Together, we can help you both to create a plan that works for your unique situation and helps you both move forward.

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We believe that mediation provides a constructive way forward, offering a solution that is not only more cost-effective and less stressful, but also much quicker than the court process.

We are committed to guiding both of you through joint discussions, helping you explore various options for your child's future.

Our mediators are dedicated to helping you find common ground, ensuring that your child's needs are at the forefront of every decision.

We understand the challenges that families often face and we are dedicated to helping you to improve things for both of you and for your child/children.

www.children1stmediation.co.uk

Starting the Mediation Process

We know it can feel daunting considering doing something new, that why we make it as easy as possible for you to start the mediation process.

The first step in the mediation process is to set up an initial information meeting, often referred to as a MIAM (Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting). You can easily book this by emailing us for a callback or by giving us a call directly.

During your initial contact by telephone one of our Mediation Advisors will explain more about how the mediation process starts, and help schedule a time that works for you to meet with a Family Mediator.

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What happens in a MIAM

The MIAM meeting is a 1-1 confidential meeting between you and the Mediator. This is your opportunity to share information about the situation that you are looking to try to resolve.

The Mediator will also ask some questions to make sure that mediation is the right process for you, and they will explain how it works. If mediation isn't suitable they will also give you information on other types of non-court dispute resolution.

If you are thinking of applying to court then this meeting is a requirement in law, and you will need a mediator to sign a form for you to say that you have attended. The courts indicate that they expected both parents to attend a MIAM.

The Mediation Process: Step-by-Step

Initial Consultation (MIAM)

Meet with our mediator to discuss your situation and understand the mediation process. They will assess suitability.

1

Joint Mediation Session/s (1 or more) 2 average

You both participate in a joint session to communicate about any concerns and explore options together to try find a solution.

2

(Child Inclusive Mediation) 9+

It is important to consider the views of your child/children in any decisions that are being made about them. This is something that we have to actively consider for all children aged 9 and over.

For more information go to this page or visit our website

3

Developing a plan – a way forward or a Parenting Plan

Create a plan together outlining how time will be shared, including specific issues, school holidays Christmas and any other important decisions regarding your child's future.

4

What Happens in Mediation?

At your joint Mediation Sessions both parents are encouraged to talk openly about the issues that you each feel need to be resolve, and to focus on your child's needs; identify any concerns and to be willing to work together to find a way forward.

The mediator will guide you through the key things you want to sort out one by one. They will help you both to explore different solutions that work for both of you, and importantly for your child/children.

The mediator doesn't take sides, say who is right or wrong or tell you what to do. It is their job to keep you both in the driving seat! Most separated parents require 2 joint sessions to sort things out.

(it is possible to mediate in exceptional circumstances without being in the same virtual/physical room as your ex-partner. Your mediator will be able to say whether you your case is suitable for this.)

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Why choose Mediation?

It's no surprise that attending a MIAM is now a legal requirement in England/Wales before any Family Law application can made, that's because the success of mediation is well known, and the fact that it is a much simpler

1

Less expensive

Family mediation is a much cheaper way to reach an agreement in family and divorce matters. The legal costs of going to court can be excessive. The co-operative nature of family mediation is designed to identify practical solutions as quickly and effectively as possible, helping keep costs low.

2

More constructive and quicker

Family mediation focuses on giving you both the opportunity to have more difficult discussions in a positive and constructive way. This means that things can most often be sorted within 2-3 sessions.

3

Simpler than legal routes

Going to court is the last thing that you or anyone else wants!

Mediation is much less stressful for everyone concerened and keeps you both in control of the future.

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Child Inclusive Mediation

It is really important to consider what your child may be thinking and feeling you're your making important decisions about their lives.

It can be so powerful to hear the voice of your children independently of both of you. We give your child the opportunity to meet with one of the specialist child Consultants in a 1-1 confidential meeting and to the chance to say how things are for them right now, what their hopes and fears are for the future and to express any other thoughts and feelings to share views your child

Your child doesn't attend the mediation meeting, with you, instead the Mediator feeds back to you both in a further session.

How much does Mediation cost?

Depending on your financial circumstances you may be eligible for Legal Aid, which means that you would not need to pay for Mediation, and your ex-partner also gets the first 1-1 meeting and the first joint session for free.

If neither of you are eligible for Legal Aid, then we are able to provide a Government Voucher scheme worth up to £500 when you also discuss Child Arrangements..

If you are not eligible for Legal Aid or the voucher please click here for more information about our current fees

Or contact our admin support team who will be pleased to assist you.

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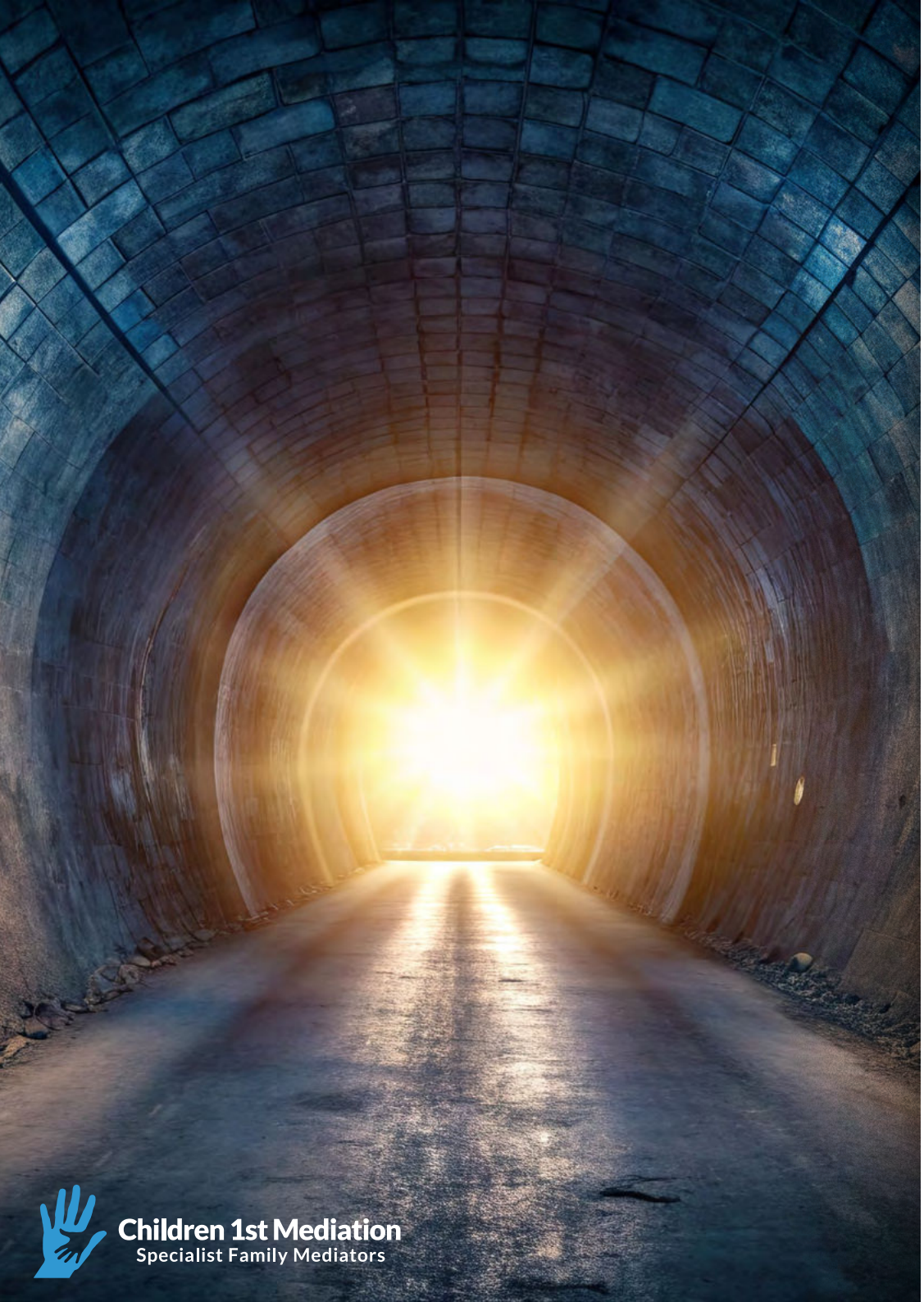

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After Mediation

The Mediator can prepare a summary setting out any proposals that you have both reached, or prepare a Parenting plan detailing the arrangements for your children.

If this is something that you think you will need the mediator can explain the shared cost of this with you both.

In some cases parents may wish to have the arrangements made legally binding which can be done by a consent order. Don't worry we can signpost you to get advice about this.

"One of the biggest areas that separated parents struggle with is how to communicate and co-operate with one another. It is never a surprise that when parents can improve their communication that this resolves most of the other issues"

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Get in touch today, you can give us a call, request a call back or send us an e-mail, the choice is yours

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