



# FAMILY MEDIATION



Family Mediation South East

# What is Family Mediation?

- Mediation provides people with the opportunity to resolve issues arising from the breakdown of a relationship
- It is a voluntary and confidential process which gives the parties a chance to explain their issues, hopes, concerns and needs to each other in the presence of an experienced and qualified family mediator
- Family mediation provides a safe environment, helping to reduce hostility and improve the chances of long term positive communication



# What is the Role of the Mediator?

- Remain impartial
- Help identify issues that need to be resolved
- Explore options available
- Provide opportunity for both parties to put forward their proposals
- Assist to help reach acceptable and workable solutions
- Include the voice of the child in the process
- Provide information about options and legal processes



# Who can come to Mediation?

- Parents and guardians
- Separating couples
- Divorcing and already divorced couples
- Grandparents, step parents and siblings



# What can be discussed in Mediation?

## **Child Arrangements, including:**

- Day to day living arrangements
- Holidays/Birthdays/Special events
- Health
- School/Leisure activities
- Parental Responsibility

## **All Financial Matters, including:**

- House, Mortgage
- Savings, Debt
- Pensions, Businesses
- Child Support to include school fees, clubs etc.,



# Mediation Process

- **Stage One: Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting (MIAM)**
  - Information meeting – giving opportunity to find out how mediation works
- **Stage Two: Mediation Meetings**
  - Consists of one, or a series of appointments – attended by both parties and family mediator
- **Stage Three: Summary**
  - Mediator draws up summary
    - Child Mediation:
      - Parenting Plan
    - Financial Mediation:
      - Open Financial Summary (OFS) – detailing financial disclosure
      - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – detailing decisions reached

**Solicitor can turn OFS and MOU into a Consent Order**



# Benefits of Family Mediation

- A private place to make decisions and changes for the future
- A skilled and impartial mediator there to help consider options
- A written document setting out the personal understandings reached
- A saving in time and the expense of legal costs and court
- A positive way to reduce the stress and hostility of family disputes

