

FACT SHEET

Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting

KEY CONTACT



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Before any mediation can get underway, you will first have to attend a mediation information and assessment meeting (MIAM). This is a crucial first meeting for the mediator to understand how they can help you and, most importantly, whether mediation is appropriate in the circumstances.

What is a MIAM?

The mediation information and assessment meeting is a confidential, in-depth meeting (without the other party present) for around one hour giving you the opportunity to meet with a mediator and talk about your particular circumstances and issues. The mediator will explain the mediation process and other options for reaching settlement such as through solicitors or other [out of court means of resolution](#).

KEY CONTACT



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The mediator may also explore the different forms of mediation they offer, including lawyer inclusive mediation and child inclusive mediation (directly involving a child in issues concerning them and what they want).

Where mediation is suitable, you will agree a mediation plan setting out the mediation process which will include inviting the other party to have their own initial meeting with the mediator.

Mediation may not always be appropriate and the mediator is trained to consider whether there are any risks of harm or controlling behaviour from either side. Where mediation is not considered appropriate, the mediator will provide a MIAM certificate confirming that mediation has been considered and signpost to other services who provide help and support.

Before attending a MIAM, we always recommend speaking with a trained family lawyer to understand your legal position in full and how mediation may best be used to resolve your issue.