



## facts you need to know about the mediation procedure

### What is family mediation?

- Mediation helps separating couples to:
- Consider the choices open to them
- Work out arrangements for the future, together
- Both partners need to be willing to participate in a series of meetings with a mediator who has professional experience of marriage and family problems.

One advantage of mediation is that it seeks to take into account each partners' feelings as well as those of the children.

### A solicitor as mediator

Latimer Hinks can offer you the services of a solicitor mediator provided that we are not already acting for either you or your partner. Otherwise we can arrange to refer you to another solicitor mediator.

Solicitor mediators are able to help you gather all the information necessary to resolve financial issues and can also give you information about the law which may assist you to find a means to agree many, if not all of the issues arising from your separation.

### How is mediation paid for?

There is an hourly rate which it is recommended that you and your partner share equally between you or alternatively in whatever proportions you wish.

Payment is made at the conclusion of each meeting with the Mediator.

### Is your own solicitor still necessary?

You may still wish to take independent legal advice. Also you will probably want an agreement which you reach embodying in a Court Order or other written document.

A Solicitor will be able to help you in this respect whereas this goes beyond the role of a Mediator.

### fact file

You should consider mediation if:

- If you or your partner are thinking about separating, or have already separated, you may wish to consider mediation.
- Do you want to make future arrangements in the best interests of the children?
- Do you need to work out what happens to your house and other assets?
- Do you need to resolve financial issues?

### benefits

You take control and decide issues - not the Court

- Mediation is quicker than Court proceedings or negotiating by letter
- Mediation is less argumentative and formal than going to Court or using a solicitor.
- Mediation helps you feel better about your separation and the issues arising from it.
- Mediation should save time and stress

### Judith Middleton

- Accredited member of Resolution as a specialist in dealing with pensions on divorce and financial provision.
- Regional Press Officer for Resolution - Tees Valley