



Part of Phillips Solicitors



Mediation services



Mediation is one of the most sensible and cost effective ways of resolving family problems when a couple's relationship has broken down, without going to court. The same is true of commercial disputes where business can be disrupted and court costs astronomical. Mediation is a voluntary process which can help to improve communication between the people involved and focus on finding solutions that everyone agrees on. It can be used to solve almost any type of problem, from family and community disputes to commercial and civil actions.

At Town Gate Mediation, we believe in the power of talk to resolve disputes. It is often the best way to get a resolution that both parties are happy to adhere to – and which often costs considerably less than outright litigation. Through Town Gate Mediation, part of Phillips Solicitors, we offer mediation services to businesses and private clients.



Going through mediation was such a brilliant way of resolving our difficulties and we ended up with an agreement that we're both happy with."

Miss Gibbins, Basingstoke

Call us on: 01256 844355

Family Mediation

When a relationship breaks down there is often a lot of distress and anger between partners. Mediation can allow matters to be resolved amicably because both of you are equally involved in the decision making. The trained mediator offers a calm, impartial centre and helps you both to limit the conflict so that you can discuss things sensibly and make the right decisions over your own lives. It is a confidential, but voluntary, process and you must both agree on solutions or there is no agreement.

If there are children then we place them at the centre of the discussions – both of you are parents of your children and need to consider their needs and feelings because you will have a continuing relationship and responsibility even after your relationship as a couple comes to an end.

Mediation can be much cheaper, emotionally and financially, than fighting through the courts with individual solicitors as you only need

one, sometimes two mediators, to help you make informed decisions about your future. The number of sessions will depend on the complexity of the issues.

What happens in mediation?

During the confidential sessions your mediator will help you and your former partner to identify all the issues that need to be resolved, discuss the options and reach a settlement that is acceptable to both parties.

We aim to avoid the painful win-lose situation, making sure that disputes are resolved in mutually beneficial terms. At the end of the process we will prepare a detailed summary of the proposals reached, which you can then have made into a legally binding agreement or court order.

We are members of the Family Mediators Association (FMA) and of the UK College of Mediators and we follow their Standards and Codes of Practice.

Commercial mediation

Mediation for businesses is similar to family mediation, in that it brings two parties or more together to have a chance to discuss their differences and reach a satisfactory conclusion. The mediator acts as an impartial third party, attempting to make sure all points of view are heard and understood. He/she will also try to ensure that a settlement, when reached, is reasonable and acceptable for both parties. The discussions take place in a neutral environment at the mediator's offices.

There will be a need for disclosure of facts and information before the matter can be fully discussed. The mediator endeavours to see both sides together in a non-threatening environment and will insist that some basic ground rules are adhered to by everyone in the room.

In certain circumstances, the mediator will use a method known as 'shuttle mediation' which is when the people concerned stay in separate rooms and after information sharing, the mediator will, literally, shuttle between the two, offering options from one to the other. Although this is not the preferred form of mediation, it can be useful when feelings are running high and getting in the way of a satisfactory conclusion.

Similarly, some people like their own lawyer or accountant to be present so that they can take legal advice during the mediation. Separate confidential areas can be allocated. At other times, individuals take the ideas back and discuss them with their own advisors before making any decisions.

Evidence shows that business conflicts which are taken to mediation are not only resolved faster, but also allow for a better relationship between the two parties afterwards. As in family mediation, nothing is finally resolved until it is issued as a full legal document.

It is difficult to say how many sessions are needed in commercial disputes but generally the mediation goes on until a resolution is found. The subject matter and the amount of information needed to help people make an informed decision can be vastly different from one case to another; however the mediator will always be determined to bring things to resolution.

We are members of the ADR Group and of the UK College of Mediators and we follow their Standards and Codes of Practice.



“

Mediation allowed us to negotiate our own resolution so that we could finally put the dispute behind us and get on with the rest of our lives.”

Mr B, Basingstoke

For more information visit our website: www.towngatemediation.co.uk

Town Gate Mediation is part of Phillips Solicitors

Howard Gardener has been selected by the Department of Constitutional Affairs to raise awareness of mediation. Since 1993 he has pioneered its use in the North Hampshire area.

If you would like to know more about how Town Gate Mediation can help you with your mediation – or any other legal issue – please visit our website, or contact us using the address or telephone numbers below:

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