



Phillips' Legal Corner



Question

Is peace and goodwill possible for warring couples?

Answer: Ann Corrigan, solicitor and mediator, explains how the mediation process can help bring peace and goodwill to the divorce table.

'When couples separate or divorce, agreeing the way forward is almost always going to be a difficult path to tread' says Ann Corrigan, solicitor and mediator. 'Whether there are arrangements to be made regarding the future of any children, or the division of property and financial assets to be agreed, divorce can be an expensive and often a confrontational business as each side 'fights' for what they believe is rightly theirs.'

But a process known as 'mediation' is available to couples and can bring a more dignified route to the end of their relationship and minimise the pain of family breakdown. It has enormous benefits in encouraging an ongoing relationship after the separation, essential if there are children, and finding a solution which works for each of them. Ann has no hesitation in encouraging couples to try it because it can help resolve family disputes without the expense of going to Court. Mediation is supported by Resolution and underpinning it is the belief in a constructive, non-confrontational approach to family law matters. Couples are encouraged by the qualified mediator to look at all the options, agree what is best for any children and end up with a fair agreement that can become legally binding.

Mediation is definitely not about who will come out best in a courtroom – on the contrary the process gives each party the opportunity to come to an agreement between themselves, with the help of their mediator, rather than having a 'Court imposed' order, creating the best chance of avoiding all that acrimony and helping to build a brighter future.

Ann Corrigan is a solicitor and qualified mediator

Call our mediation helpline on 01256 844355 or find out more at www.phillips-law.co.uk and www.towngatemediation.co.uk