

## How Much Will It Cost?

Mediator charges are calculated per hour, similar to one solicitor's charge (instead of two). The costs can be shared between you in any way you agree. In addition there are new legal aid schemes that pay the costs for qualifying applicants. At the initial meeting you will be assessed for your public Funding eligibility.

## Why Use Family Mediation?

If you and your partner are facing separation or divorce, you will want arrangements for the future to both fair and workable. In all cases, but particularly if children are involved, it is important that agreement is reached with the minimum of conflict or distress. Family mediation helps parties take control of their situation and work things out in an open and co-operative atmosphere. Mediation can help you reach a lasting settlement which is fair to all parties - whilst at the same time avoiding high legal costs. Mediation helps open up lines of communication between parties who may then make decisions for the future without having decisions imposed on them.

## Profile of Victoria Hewitt B.A. (JT Hons)

Victoria Hewitt has been in practice as a family Solicitor since she qualified in 1988. She trained as a family mediator with National Family Mediation (NFM) in 1996 and with Law Wise, and is on the court of appeal mediation panel. Victoria Hewitt offers mediation on all issues including Property and Finance, Divorce, Separation and on all issues relating to children. Victoria Hewitt is on the Court of Appeal Panel of Mediation.

Wessex Family Mediation Centre was set up in 1997. The centre has a contract with the Legal Services Commission to provide publicly funded mediation for those who qualify and Victoria Hewitt is recognised by the Legal Services Commission to handle All Issues Mediation.

## Where are we?

As well as our head office in Bournemouth, Wessex Family Mediation Centre also operates at two other venues. These are:

St. Johns Ambulance Hall

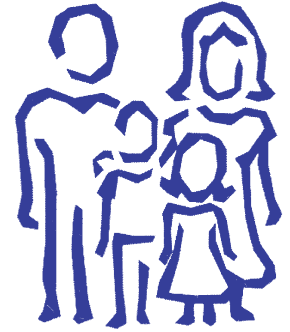
Westway Road, Weymouth, Dorset

Stratford Advice Centre

107 - 109 The Grove, Stratford, London.

For clients who have little or no English, and interpreter can be provided at no extra cost.

# Mediation East London



## Easing the process of separation and divorce

- Cheaper
- Less Stressful
- Quicker
- Under Your Control

## Contact Victoria Hewitt

Head Office:  
Suite 217, Oxford Point  
19 Oxford Road  
Bournemouth, Dorset BH8 8GS

All Enquiries and Appointments  
Tel: 01202 016750

email: [mediate@btconnect.com](mailto:mediate@btconnect.com)  
[www.wfmc.co.uk](http://www.wfmc.co.uk)

Community  
Legal Service



Mediation East London  
is an outreach post of  
Wessex Family Mediation Centre Ltd

**Law Society Accredited**



## What is Family Mediation?

Family Mediation is a service that helps couples or other family members deal with any or all of the questions relating to their separation or divorce in a thoughtful and co-operative way. The mediator is an impartial third party who helps the parties involved work through any or all of the issues relating to the separation or divorce. The issues may relate to children, property, finance or any other issues which are important to the parties involved. The mediator will help the parties make their own informed decisions in a non-adversarial way: as well as helping them to consider the needs and feelings of their children.

The mediation room is less formal than the court room.

## How Long does it take?

On average three 1-hour sessions are needed. However if your financial circumstances are complicated, or if there is a lot of disagreement between the two parties, more meetings may be necessary. Parties may decide at the end of each session whether a further session is needed.



## How Does it Work?

A trained mediator assists you and your partner, former partner or family member to discuss and resolve any issues connected with separation or divorce. These may include:  
Children; Residency, Maintenance and Contact Property and Housing and Finances

Mediators do not take sides or make the decisions for you. They help you gather all the relevant information, to consider the options open to you and to agree on mutually acceptable solutions.

Mediation is designed to ease the process of separation or divorce. It is not a marriage guidance service. If you and your partner wish to consider the possibility of staying together, or if you would like personal counselling, we can provide you with details of relevant counselling services.

## Who are the Mediators?

Our mediators are highly qualified, experienced lawyers or professionals who specialise in family mediation work and have also been trained in mediation. During meetings they make sure that certain ground rules are respected, thus allowing discussions to be as balanced and productive as possible.

## Do We Still Need Solicitors?

Although they can give legal information mediators do not give legal advice and for your own protection it is recommended that you consult solicitors over the terms of any proposed settlement. However, mediation reduces the time and cost of going to two separate solicitors and asking them to negotiate a settlement on your behalf. Mediation is much less costly and upsetting than fighting in court.

## Where Do We Go From Here?

If you and your partner are interested in family mediation contact us on the numbers provided for further information or to arrange an appointment.

At the initial appointment the mediator will fully explain the process and answer any questions.

If the other party is reluctant to try mediation, you could suggest a single exploratory meeting.

Remember, the aim of mediation is to help you reduce the stress and expense involved in separation - and it works for the benefit of both parties and any children.