

COSTS

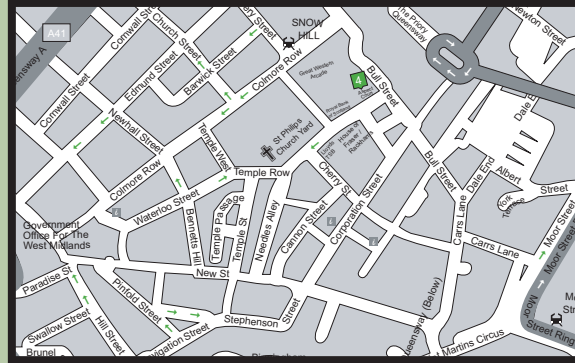
You could receive free family mediation if you are on a low income as you may be eligible for legally aided mediation, which will cover all your mediation costs

If you qualify for free mediation, the cost does not have to be repaid at any time in the future (unlike the Statutory Charge which may apply to public funding for legal advice). Additionally, free mediation does not 'use up' any Public Funding for work done by your solicitor.

Although the rules on legal aid are changing, the Government is currently committed to funding mediation for eligible clients.

The Legal Services Commission will not pay for mediation services for people who earn above the threshold income, and so we need to charge fees to cover our costs. Even so, mediation will usually be cheaper than going to court, or pursuing matters solely through a solicitor. We do not charge for producing or receiving paperwork or making telephone calls, and we charge fees according to income, as we would like to make mediation accessible to everyone.

HOW TO FIND US



Aspect Court

4 Temple Row

Birmingham B2 5HG

Tel: 0121-270 8686 (24 HR)

Fax: 0121-270-8699

Email: asha.rani@greensllp.co.uk

or enquiries@greensllp.co.uk

www.greensllp.co.uk

Greens Solicitors LLP

FAMILY MEDIATION



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GREENS FAMILY SOLICITOR MEDIATION SERVICES

We are a young innovative firm dealing with all aspects of family law and now introducing Family Mediation Services. Mediation is an entirely voluntary process, and therein lies the beauty of it: you cannot force anybody to mediate. However, the government is strongly encouraging people to learn about mediation. From 6th April 2011, a protocol was set in place where separating couples assess whether mediation would be a better way of resolving their disputes than battling over them in court. This is part of the government's plan to reduce the pressures on the family court system. Anybody who now wants to start court proceedings in a family matter, either relating to children or finances on divorce is required to attend an introductory meeting - a 'mediation information and assessment meeting' (MIAM), which will explain about the process of mediation, and seek to determine whether the case might be suitable for mediation.

GREENS FAMILY MEDIATION THEREFORE PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

- Divorce
- Separation Agreements
- Living Together Agreements
- Marital Agreements (Premarital and Post Marital)
- Civil Partnership Agreements
- Same Sex Couple Mediation
- Parenting Agreements (Child Custody)
- Support Issues (Child and / or Spousal)
- Relocation Issues
- Variation of Court Orders
- Division of Assets and Liabilities

THE ROLE OF THE MEDIATOR

Is about making sure everyone in the room has a voice. Mediation is about having a discussion on topics that people need to come to agreements on while at the same time meeting as many of the needs and interests of all the parties as possible.

When we are in the centre of a family storm, our logic and reasoning can go right out of the window. When it comes to family, all of our civility can disappear and we may say hurtful, mean and vindictive things to one another. This does not leave room for open, honest, sincere communication.

As a Family Mediator, our role is to provide impartial, neutral support for all the parties involved. We can facilitate your discussion and help the parties stay on track so that they can work through each of the items they came to talk about and come to agreements with more focus and ease.

Whether you are in the middle of a family conflict and recognise that you need assistance, or you feel that your family could use some professional guidance to help an important family discussion stay focused, then give us a call on 0121 270 8686 or email asha.rani@greensllp.co.uk and find out if Greens Family Mediation Services is right for you. Alternatively you may search our website www.greensllp.co.uk.

Should there be a language barrier, we can provide an interpreter, however we do have an Urdu, Punjabi and Hindi speaking mediator.

We can also provide shuttle mediation if necessary should the other party not wish to be in the same room. We also have individual waiting room facilities.

PROS AND CONS OF MEDIATION COMPARED TO COURT PROCEEDINGS

Cons of Court Proceedings

- Lengthy & time consuming.
- Judges have little time to hear the details of your divorce case, Scheduling dates between courts & litigants cause expensive delays.
- You may only get limited time to tell the court about your case.
- Unpredictable outcomes.
- You may have to make decisions about your divorce settlement in a split second in a crowded hallway.
- No confidentiality - all court files are public records.
- Soon they will be available online.
- Costly - Each hour your lawyer spends waiting, you pay, even if no progress on your case is made.
- Stress and pressure.
- Courts by their adversarial nature encourage combat, which is not conducive to a healthy family life after the legal divorce proceedings are over.

Pros of Mediation

- You determine the time schedule and issues.
- You control the mediation cost, which is usually about 1/10th to 1/3rd of the cost of a typical divorce case.
- You make the decisions in mediation that you will be living with.
- You have the flexibility in mediation of taking time to consider how a decision will affect your family long term.
- You can try out agreements before you sign the final Divorce Agreement.
- Mediation is confidential.
- You control the outcome in mediation, and because of this, agreements made in mediation typically work better than those negotiated in the courthouse hallway minutes before a hearing.
- Cost-effective.
- Faster.
- Less stressful.
- Healthier for you and your family, since part of mediation is learning to communicate better, which is especially important when children are involved.