



*Mediation and support for families since 1989*

**Staffordshire Family Mediation Service** is a not for profit organisation supported by a Management Committee of advisors. We have provided mediation and family support services since 1989. We have held a Legal Aid Agency Contract and Quality Mark since 1997.

**We understand** the pressures people face in today's world and offer a service that aims to provide information, support and assistance to all who are experiencing difficulties with parenting arrangements, child support, living arrangements and financial issues such as the division of assets or the management of debts.

**We are committed** to providing an inclusive, professional, quality service at an affordable price.

We are part of the **National Family Mediation Network** ( [www.nfm.org.uk](http://www.nfm.org.uk) ) which is the largest not for profit network of family mediation services in the UK. All mediators are NFM trained and have full Council of Family Mediators and Legal Aid Agency recognition.

## MEDIATION VENUES

<b>Staffordshire</b>
<b>Tamworth - Main Venue and Administration Office</b> 19 Victoria Road, B79 7HU
<b>Burton-upon-Trent</b> CVS Union St, DE14 1AA
<b>Cannock</b> CAB 48 Allport Road WS11 1DY
<b>Lichfield</b> CVS Mansell House Bore St WS13 6LL
<b>Stafford</b> VAST The Hub 17 Eastgate Street ST16 2LZ
<b>Stoke on Trent</b> Dudson Centre, ST1 5DD
<b>Derbyshire</b>
<b>Swadlincote</b> CVS Grové Street, DE11 9DD
<b>Derby</b> Community Action DE1 2GT
<b>Leicestershire</b>
<b>Coalville</b> Marlene Reid Centre, LE67 3PH
<b>Leicester</b> The Peepul Centre, LE4 6DP
<b>Loughborough</b> John Storer House, LE11 3HA
<b>Wolverhampton</b> VSC 16 Temple St, WV2 4AN

**Other venues are available throughout the UK via the National Family Mediation Network.**

Administration Department



**01827 314020**



or

[enquiries@staffsmediation.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@staffsmediation.co.uk)  
[www.familymediationhub.co.uk](http://www.familymediationhub.co.uk)

# STAFFORDSHIRE FAMILY MEDIATION SERVICE



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**Family Mediation** helps couples (whether married, civil partners or cohabit ees) and other family members to discuss and resolve any issue or issues created as a result of change due to family breakdown, separation or changes to a relationship in a thoughtful and co-operative way. We help clients communicate: exploring the options available to them to settle disputes and reach joint decisions.

**The process is voluntary**, in a **neutral venue**, with an experienced **independent third party** to help deal with the wide ranging issues experienced when relationships break down or change. Discussions are **confidential** and when all parties are satisfied they have reached an agreement that is right for all concerned, they can consult their lawyers to formalise their proposals. **To get started** you need to arrange a **Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting (MIAM)** by calling 01827 314020.



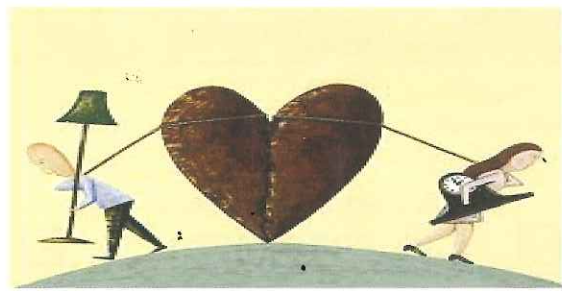
**We use our extensive training and experience** to help clients find a way forward. In addition to their mediation training and experience, **our team** have experience and qualifications in family law – family therapy – counselling – teaching – business management – finance and cultural issues. This wealth and wide ranging knowledge pool is used to help us provide an holistic, joined up approach to relationship disputes in a safe, caring and supportive environment.

**Relationship breakdown and separation** is usually a painful experience for all involved, particularly children.



**Research** has shown that children suffer less harm and cope better with the changes caused by family separation if parents are able to reduce the tension and conflict around them. Sorting out financial matters, living and contact arrangements quickly and co-operatively can help children manage change.

**When a relationship breaks down**, if you feel hurt and rejected, you usually want to walk away and not see the other person again, but if you remain linked together by a child or financial issues can you truly move on until arrangements for the child or the division of your assets or debts has been dealt with?



**Every relationship is different, every separation is different, every child is different.**

**What will it cost?**

**The Legal Aid Agency continues to provide funding for family mediation.** Clients who are eligible can also access free advice from a solicitor during mediation and help with implementation and formalisation of agreements. Please ask for further information.

**If you are not eligible for public funding**, we will explain and agree our charges with you at the assessment meeting so that you know exactly what mediation will cost. We can also provide details of local solicitors and those who offer fixed fee packages for advice and implementation of agreements reached in mediation.



**What if the other person will not consider mediation?** Courts usually require parties to show that they have considered mediation **before** issuing court proceedings. A court application must usually be supported by a declaration from a mediator that mediation has been considered before proceedings are issued. If the other party is not prepared to consider mediation (and we will contact them for you and explain the process), you may still require an assessment meeting before you can issue court proceedings.

**We cannot explain everything in a leaflet**, so for help please telephone **01827 314020** or e-mail [enquiries@staffsmediation.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@staffsmediation.co.uk)