

## The Principles of Mediation:

Mediation is

- **Voluntary** (including the mediators)
- **Impartial** (all information is shared)
- **Confidential** (exceptions conflict resolution, child protection and safety issues)
- Decisions are made jointly by parties
- Decisions made in mediation can be written as an agreement.
- Agreements made in conflict resolution (mediation with parties already going through the legal process) will be used in court.

**Decisions made now will affect both you and your children into the future**

## Mediation

The Family Proceedings Advisory Service is able to offer mediation or conflict resolution (mediation with parties already going through the court process) on child matters when both parties agree to this.

Information from mediation:-

is kept completely confidential, however information shared in conflict resolution will be used in the court process.



Fair Processing Notice  
(Data Protection)

Please refer to:-

[www.gov.gg/](http://www.gov.gg/)

familyproceedingsadvisoryservice  
to view our Fair Processing Notice



States of Guernsey  
Family Proceedings  
Advisory Service

**Putting children and young people first**

## Mediation



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# Family Proceedings Advisory Service — Putting children and young people first

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## What is family mediation?

Mediation helps those involved in family breakdown to communicate more effectively and reach their own decisions on matters affecting them and their children.

The mediators will help you to improve communication, discuss solutions to problems and make practical arrangements whilst keeping the needs and wishes of the child as the central focus.

## Why try mediation?

There are numerous benefits in taking part in mediation.

- It can help to reduce conflict and feelings of bitterness
- it can improve communication and help parents focus on the needs, wishes and feelings of their children
- It can avoid the stress and expense of court proceedings
- It offers the opportunity for you each to speak and hear the other's point of view in a respectful and safe environment.

## How will mediation work?

Mediation takes place through joint meetings with the help of trained, impartial professionals. The mediators are there to help you and your former partner to have a conversation about the issues that need to be resolved. Any decisions you make will be made freely by you and your former partner without pressure.

As communication can be difficult in times of emotional stress and upset, mediation can help by providing a safe place for individuals to explore thoughts and feelings and reach agreement in a confidential setting. Meetings take place in a relaxed environment which aims to encourage open and honest communication.

Mediation is not counselling, therapy, or marriage guidance. Mediators will not give advice, and will remain neutral as to the outcome, but will help you explore solutions that are appropriate for you.

## What issues can be discussed through mediation?

- Where the children will live
- When and how the children will see the non-resident parent
- How best to explain the situation to the children
- How much time children will spend with their extended family

- Who the children will spend holidays with such as Easter, summer and Christmas
- How parents will communicate about their children
- Outside relationships and new partners
- **What next?**
  - If you think mediation could help you can request a referral form from FPAS .
  - When we have received information from the parties we will hold intake meetings with each of you to confirm suitability for mediation, or conflict resolution. We will collect relevant details and obtain your overall objective in attending mediation. The parties will then be contacted to arrange mediation sessions.
  - Mediation can continue whilst the parties are engaging with the process and progressing towards reaching the objectives.