



USEFUL WEBSITES

INFORMATION ABOUT FAMILY MEDIATION

Our mediation service is one of the services approved by **Legal Aid Agency** to provide legal aid. Their helpful website about mediation and all aspects of separation and divorce is www.familymattersmediate.co.uk.

Mediation is an excellent way for separating or divorcing couples to make decisions about finances/and or care of the children. The process is a quick and cost effective and you are able to make decisions about your future. There is a lot of information available on our website www.familymattersmediate.co.uk.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Advice and help for parents following separation and effects on children www.govuk/government/pulications/gettingitrightforchildren. – this website is highly recommended.

Family lives website help, support and information of all sorts for parents and step-parents www.familylives.org.uk 24 hour helpline for parents 0808 800 2222

Centre for Separated Families online and e-mail support for parents and other people affected by separation of parenting apart www.separatedfamilies.info

LEGAL ADVICE AND INFORMATION

There is a new website set up by the government www.sortingoutseparation.org.uk which has comprehensive information about many areas including legal issues.

The government website www.gov.uk also has a great deal of information relating to divorce and separation, and you can work your way through the process, it also has information about court fees and downloadable forms etc.

Since April 2013 Legal Aid has not generally been available in family cases, however if you would have been eligible for legal aid you can access a telephone legal advice service **Legal Advice Helpline** on 0845 345 4345 (you will be assessed for Legal Aid).

Resolution is an organisation of family lawyers that helps families reach solutions in a non-confrontational way. Their website www.resolution.org.uk can provide information about all aspects of family law and lists local family lawyers who are members.

MAKING A COURT APPLICATION

Local family courts are in **Doncaster/Sheffield/Rotherham/Barnsley**. Helpful leaflets from HM Courts Service **Guide for Separated Parents: Children and the Family Courts (CB7)** and **Making an Application – Children and the Family Courts (CB1)** can be obtained from court offices or online at www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmcts.

Court Fees for making an application are currently £215.00 (as of June 2013). A system known as the remission system is in place for those on a low income who would struggle to pay the fee and the meet the appropriate criteria



FAMILY MATTERS MEDIATE LIMITED

REPRESENTING YOURSELF

This can be daunting but there is a lot of help around see Court Leaflet CB1 above and Families Need Fathers website below:

National Family Mediation have a useful and informative Fact Sheet on Self Representation www.nfm.org.uk/index.php/separation-issues/legal/court-process/litigants-in-person

The Bar Council have produced a **Guide to Representing Yourself in Court** which is very useful, however this is quite long and Family Law is near the end www.barcouncil.org.uk/instructing-a-barrister/representing-yourself-in-court/

HELP WITH MONEY MATTERS

The **Money Advice Service** is a very helpful free service with information and advice on financial matters including after separation www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk. They also have a helpline 0300 500 5000 (Mon – Fri 8am – 6pm)

Many parents agree Child Support between themselves. **Child Maintenance Options** has taken over from the CSA (Child Support Agency) and has good information about options for child support and other aspects of separation www.cmoptions.org. They also have a helpline 0800 988 0988.

HELP WITH DEBT

The **Citizens Advice Bureau** can help with many issues. There are Citizens Advice Bureaux in many towns in South Yorkshire www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

National Debtline provide a free and confidential helpline about dealing with debt 0808 808 4000. They also have a useful website www.nationaldebtline.co.uk.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR SEPARATING COUPLES

Excellent advice from the **Advice Services Alliance** including information on many areas and a divorce toolkit, provides good help for co-habiting couples who are splitting up www.advicenow.org.uk.

Wikivorce this website contains lots of information and help about all aspects of divorce and separation www.wikivorce.com.

The **CAB Advice Website** contains much information www.advicenow.org.uk.

CAFCASS has a very helpful website for children and families involved in legal proceedings www.cafcass.gov.uk.

Families Need Fathers website www.fnf.org.uk is full of information relevant to Dads and shared parenting. They also have a helpline 0300 0300 363.

Gingerbread have some good fact sheets about lots of aspects of being a single parent and some good legal information www.gingerbread.org.uk.

The Grandparents Association provides help, support and advice for Grandparents and their families www.grandparents-association.org.uk.

For more information please contact Family Matters on 03300 881440 or email on admin@familymattersmediate.co.uk website: www.familymattersmediate.co.uk



FAMILY MATTERS MEDIATE LIMITED

Mothers Apart from their Children is a helpful website for Mums www.matchmothers.org.uk.

Mumsnet has lots of information for parents and also an informative forum www.mumsnet.com.

The **Rights of Women** website explains residence and contact orders in clear language and also provides many other services including free telephone legal advice for women www.row.org.uk.

The **Relate** website www.relate.org.uk has a lot of good information on relationship issues.

National Domestic Violence Helpline 0800 2000 247 provide a 24 –hour support and information helpline for women experiencing domestic violence. They also have a website www.domesticviolencehelpline.org.uk.

The **Shared Parents Information** provides helpful information on shared parenting after divorce or separation www.spig.clara.net.