



Family Matters Mediation

FINANCIAL AND CHILD MEDIATION

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Child Consultation Policy

Family Matters recognises the importance of consulting children within mediation. It gives the opportunity for a child/children to speak to an adult who is not a member of their family within a carefully managed setting.

Parents make better decisions when they have information from their children about their views. Child Consultants are in an excellent position to provide this. All Child Consultants are specially trained and are CRB checked.

Child Consultation can only take place if both parents agree. It is expected most Child Consultations will take place with children 6 year and older but this will depend on the views of the parents and the maturity of the child.

Procedure

- 1) Within a mediation both parents accept Child Consultation will be a good way forward. There must be at least one mediation meeting to prepare the parents and ask "what if" questions the process of child consultation explained.
- 2) Child attends with parent, the Child Consultant mediator explains process, limits of confidentiality fact that information will be passed onto parents. Explain the fact they are not decision makers.
- 3) Child Consultation takes place and child's views noted down and checked with the child.
- 4) Process of feedback clarified with the child and options given that the child
 - a) Attends and gives views
 - b) Attends and the Child Consultant gives views.
 - c) Does not attend and views given by Child Consultant.
- 5) Feedback to parents of child's views given in separate meeting both mediator and Child Consultant attend meeting.
- 6) Written feedback provided this remains privileged and confidential.

www.familymattersmediate.co.uk

Contracted with the Civil Legal Aid Agency

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