

How Much Will Your Mediation Cost At Bristol Family Mediation?

The First Appointment (Approx. 45 minutes)

- We offer this appointment for free, whether you are eligible for public funding (which used to be called Legal Aid) or not.

Mediation

- If you are receiving public funding all mediation sessions are free
- If you are not receiving public funding costs are as below, per person:
 - £73.19 per hour (excl VAT) for child only cases
 - £96.17 per hour (excl VAT) for all other types of mediation cases.(These hourly rates compare very favourably with the rates charged by Solicitors, etc, when mediation is not used)
- A typical session is an hour and a half, which will cost £126 (for child only) or £166 (for all other) incl VAT

Public Funding for Mediation

Clients with limited means and those in receipt of certain benefits may qualify for publicly funded mediation. Details of the qualifying income and capital levels (set by the Legal Services Commission) are provided separately. Eligibility for publicly funded mediation is assessed at the Initial Interview. Publicly funded mediation is not subject to being 'clawed back' after settlement and is therefore genuinely free to those who qualify.

Written Summary

Where a written summary is provided during or at the conclusion of mediation if you are receiving public funding, the summary is free.

If you are not receiving public funding there is a charge of:

- £60 per person incl VAT is made for a short summary or financial statement, if not part of MOU.
- £220 per person incl VAT is made for All Issues full detailed summary with breakdown of assets, liabilities and finances (Memorandum of Understanding)

Failed Appointments

We reserve the right to make a charge if you fail to turn up at your arranged appointment. We require two working days notice if you cannot attend. Missed appointments cost us money and can inconvenience other clients.

Is it Expensive?

Recent independent research* based on solicitor's own estimates has shown that the average cost to a private paying client in resolving a dispute using the services of a solicitor is £1,865. Hourly rates for the services of a solicitor typically vary between £105 - £180 (or more) in this area.

*Monitoring Publicly Funded Mediation (2000) – Davis et al p113

How Many Meetings Will I need?

The average number of mediations required for conclusion in Child Issues is 2 sessions (Average overall cost is £315 incl VAT)

The average number of mediations required for conclusion in All Issues is between 4 and 5 sessions. (Average overall cost is in the range of £884 to £1050 incl VAT) These are obviously dictated by the complexity of the issues raised.

Each client is responsible for his/her own payment, which is made at the time of the appointment, either by cash or by cheque payable to 'BFM'. We reserve the right to claim interest from the date that the payment is due until the date of payment (currently 10% per annum).