

family mediation

Come to **stevensdrake** for an alternative way of resolving family disputes with the help of an impartial mediator. Susan Jago is a qualified Lawyer/mediator trained to help couples sort out their problems without the involvement of the Court.

What is family mediation?

Family mediation is a confidential process in which couples experiencing separation, divorce or other family disputes meet with a trained and impartial family mediator to consider ways of resolving their disputes and to make joint decisions for the future about their children, finances, property and pensions.

What issues may be brought to mediation?

Any or all of the problems that arise when couples part including:

- Decisions about day to day care of the children, where they are to live and how they are to have contact with the other parent.
- The timing of separation or divorce.
- The financial support for the family.
- The division of assets of the marriage, including pensions, housing and property.

How does it work?

A couple meet together with the family mediator for a number of sessions - generally two to four sessions - in order to look at the choices open to each of them and to sort things out to reach decisions acceptable to both.

What is the outcome?

At the end of mediation any proposals reached are summarised in writing in a document known as a Memorandum of Understanding. The couples are advised to take the Memorandum of Understanding to separate Solicitors at the conclusion of mediation so that it can be formalised as a legally binding agreement.

What can mediation provide?

- A reduction in hostility.
- A reduction in legal expenses.
- A confidential and safe place for sorting things out together.
- A constructive way forward.

The cost of mediation

Where a couple or an individual is not eligible for public funding there is a charge for mediation. The charge compares favourably with the cost of employing individual solicitors to conduct the case. Susan Jago of **stevensdrake** works with Family Mediation in Sussex which has a franchise from the Legal Services Commission and provides free publicly funded mediation. One or both parties may be eligible for Public Funding subject to an assessment of means.

Susan Jago is an accredited member of the Family Mediators Association and a Member of the UK College of Family Mediators.

For further information our Family department can be contacted on 01293 596935.