

## **THE JERSEY MEDIATION SERVICE**

### **General**

Affiliated to National Family Mediation, the Jersey Family Mediation Service aims are to help parents who are separating or divorcing and who are having difficulties agreeing about the arrangements for their children. Other family members, such as grandparents, may also use mediation to arrange how to keep in touch with children, and where it is considered appropriate, children can be seen in direct consultation with a mediator.

2 Charles House  
Charles Street  
St Helier  
JE2 4SF  
Telephone 638898

#### **Office Hours:**

9am to 8pm Monday to Wednesday

9am to 2pm Thursday

E-mail: [info@jerseyfamilymediation.org.uk](mailto:info@jerseyfamilymediation.org.uk)

Website [www.jerseyfamilymediation.org.uk](http://www.jerseyfamilymediation.org.uk)

Premises shared with Relate.

### **What does it offer.**

A neutral place where both parents can meet impartial mediators who will help clients negotiate about all issues relating to their separation and in particular their children. Mediators will not give legal advice but they will have a panel of legal advisers to refer to on points of law. Clients will be expected to keep their legal advisers informed. The process is without prejudice and voluntary. Either party can terminate at any time or the mediator may terminate at her/his discretion.

### **Who are the Mediators**

Mediators, trained to UK National Family Mediation (NFM) standards, will neither take sides nor tell clients what to do. They will help clients, as parents, to make decisions about their children and will encourage them to co-operate in the children's best interests. They will not discuss matters with the legal advisers.

### **When should clients go to Mediation**

At any stage in the process of separation or divorce. At any time after separation or divorce if arrangements have broken down and need to be re-negotiated.

### **Is Mediation confidential?**

Mediation is a voluntary process and is confidential. The only circumstance in which information would be passed on, with the client's knowledge, is if a child is at serious risk of harm. The client can come to a written agreement which can be given to their Advocate or Solicitor.

### **How to arrange for Mediation**

Telephone the Mediation Service Administrator. You can arrange for an appointment or simply ask any questions you may have. Clients can self refer or be referred by lawyers or other agencies.

The first appointment with a Mediator will last approximately half an hour to discuss the process and assess suitability. If mediation is deemed to be suitable then further sessions last up to an hour and a half each. It is estimated that the process should take between eight and twelve hours in total.

### **How much does Mediation cost**

There is a scale of charges assessed according to the client's financial circumstances.

### **Written agreement**

The final stage of mediation is to draw up a written agreement (Memorandum of Understanding). This may be referred to the parties' lawyers for incorporation in any Court Orders or Separation Agreements.