

WHY CHOOSE MEDIATION?

- It works. Most people complete mediation with problems resolved. Each case is carefully assessed for suitability to give you the best prospect of success.
- Research shows that people who use mediation end their relationship in a more positive frame of mind.
- Mediation leaves you in a better place in terms of personal wellbeing.
- Mediation allows creativity – you can reach agreements that suit you.
- You can talk about and focus on what is important to you – there may be lots of issues or just a few.
- Mediation can help you each cope with the tensions that arise when a relationship is not going to mend.
- Mediation is voluntary, so you can stop if it isn't working.
- In a court process, the judge applies legal criteria. What might matter to you will not necessarily be important to the judge.
- The mediator's job is to encourage constructive discussions and make you feel comfortable.
- Mediated agreements set solid foundations for co-parenting into the future and send a positive message to your children that you are working together for their benefit.

HOW DOES MEDIATION WORK?

1. Individual sessions for each of you and your partner.
2. Joint sessions with you together:
 - a. Agree issues to discuss
 - b. Gather information, such as financial documents
 - c. Talk to each other with the mediator's assistance
3. Reach agreed proposals:
 - a. Agree what further documentation is needed
 - b. 'Open Financial Statement' – records financial facts
 - c. 'Memorandum of Understanding' – records proposals
 - d. 'Parenting Plan' – arrangements for children
4. Agree which solicitor is to draft the legally-binding documents.





PRETTYS

FOR PEACE OF MIND

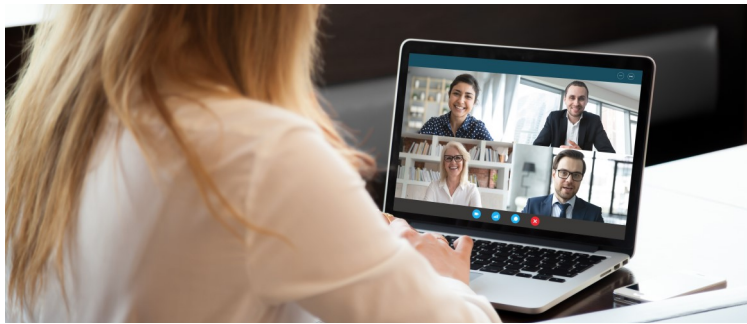
MEDIATION SERVICES

What does mediation cost and is it cheaper than court?

Our mediators work on an hourly rate which is usually shared equally between you and your partner. This is different to if you each instruct a solicitor where you each pay the solicitors' hourly rates.

How long does mediation take?

As long as you need, but an average timeframe is 4 – 6 sessions of 90 minutes to 2 hours per session. There can be a few days or a few weeks between each session, depending on what might be needed between each session for the following session to be productive.



Can I have my solicitor or a friend with me?

The preference is to work with just you and your partner. Solicitors can attend by agreement of both of you and the mediator. Friends or family are welcome to wait for you in our waiting rooms, if mediation takes place in our office, but would not normally attend mediation sessions unless you and the mediator agree.

Why use Prettys for mediation?

Our mediation practice is led by accredited mediator Victoria Mayhew. Accreditation is a quality mark awarded by the Family Mediation Council and Law Society and illustrates our commitment to helping you. We have a unique Family Team in that each solicitor is also trained as a mediator, with many years of family law experience. Victoria is one of only a handful of accredited mediators working locally. Our focus is on assisting you achieve an outcome that suits you.

Where do you mediate?

We have a suite of rooms in our Ipswich office, but we are able to work virtually over Zoom and have found that this works particularly well. Participants can mediate in the comfort and familiarity of their own home, and can work around childcare or other responsibilities.

Key members of the team:



Georgina Rayment

Head of Family
& Partner

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Georgie Hall

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Victoria Mayhew

Associate & Accredited
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