

Podcast Script: Mediation Changes

Speaker: Kate Taylor
Practice Area: Family Mediation



Welcome to I-Legal.info where we at FJG keep an eye on the Law for you.

As from April 6th anyone wanting to apply to the Court for an Order in family proceedings will have to attend a meeting with a mediator to find out whether mediation would be suitable for them.

Q: Kate, does that mean everyone needs to mediate?

A: No, they just have to attend an assessment meeting to find out about mediation and to enable them to decide if they would like to mediate.

Q: Are there any exceptions?

A: The main ones are where there is domestic violence or there are any child protection issues.

Q: What type of cases will this relate to?

A: Proceedings relating to children such as applications for contact with children or applications regarding a child's residence and financial proceedings within divorce.

Q: What exactly does it involve?

A: The assessment meeting with the mediator can be with both parties together or separately if they prefer. A financial assessment will be carried out to establish whether they are eligible for Legal Aid. The mediator has to assess if mediation would be suitable for them and will provide general information about what mediation is.

Q: What are the costs?

A: If a person is eligible for Legal Aid then the meeting will be free otherwise a charge will be made. That charge can be paid by the persons individually or split between the couple.

Q: So do I have to go through a Solicitor to arrange it?

A: A referral can be made through your solicitor but there is also an on-line referral form on our website or you can contact me, Kate Taylor by telephone on 0206 835320 or by email at KTaylor@fjg.co.uk.

Thank you for listening to i-Legal, for further information contact us at Fisher Jones Greenwood LLP at info@fjg.co.uk or visit our website at www.fjg.co.uk.