

What is Integrated Family Mediation?

Integrated Family Mediation is a mediation process that creates a flexible and inclusive approach to discussions, as it involves the participation from professional 3rd parties who might assist with reaching a mutually acceptable solution to the family law issue.

The goal is to create an environment that gives individuals the best possible chance to mediate successfully.

This integrated approach is offered as an alternative to our more traditional mediation model for clients who have more complex legal, financial or emotional issues that need to be addressed. We continue to offer the traditional model as this works well for the majority of our clients, but we recognise that not all cases can be treated the same and that some clients prefer or need a different approach.

Integrated Family Mediation encourages the idea of bringing other professionals into the mediation space to assist with the mediation discussions. This might include, but is not limited to lawyers, IFAs, accountants, pension advisers and mental health professionals.

Why might it be offered?

Some clients may feel that they cannot move forward with decision making without the support and guidance of their legal or financial adviser.

The issues that arise, particularly in complex financial cases, may require the input of an independent expert to help clients understand the options and implications of any decisions to be made.

What is the process?

Both clients and 3rd parties are asked to agree to participate in the Integrated Family Mediation Model.

A Mediation Information and Assessment meeting then take place between the client (alone) and the mediator. If the Integrated model is being considered part way through the mediation process this may have already taken place.

A Planning Meeting is scheduled for all participants via Zoom. This includes the clients and their chosen legal adviser or other 3rd party expert.

The clients are asked to sign our Agreement to Mediate (unless already signed), and all participants, including 3rd parties, are asked to sign an Integrated Family Mediation Agreement which covers areas where the process differs from traditional mediation models.

Mediation itself then takes place over the course of a day or half day. The day is a combination of joint and separate sessions, with and without the 3rd party professional present.

If an agreement is reached on the day, heads of agreement can be drafted by lawyers if present, and after the mediation they can prepare any final legal documents. If lawyers are not present, the mediator will draft confidential proposal terms so that legal advice can be obtained and legal documents subsequent drafted by lawyers if necessary.

How much does it cost?

For details of our charges for Integrated Family Mediation please refer to our separate charges information sheet.

Next Steps

If you wish to make an enquiry about arranging Integrated Family Mediation please contact Gemma Burden via email g.burden@laceyssolicitors.co.uk or telephone 01202 377993.