

A **safe space** to  
discuss the future

RAYDEN SOLICITORS



## DISPUTE RESOLUTION | **MEDIATION**



### **CLAIRE** HOWARD

#### SENIOR ASSOCIATE SOLICITOR & MEDIATOR

Choosing the right mediator for your family matter is crucial. Claire is a trained mediator as well as a specialist family law solicitor, with nearly a decade of family law experience in both financial and children issues. In choosing Claire, you can be assured that your mediator knows the current law, procedure and best practice. Claire will approach your mediation with sensitivity, compassion, neutrality and transparency.

### **MEDIATION**

Mediation is a process in which you, together with your partner, sit down in a room with a trained mediator to reach a negotiated solution in relation to specific issues. It is our aim to support you in reaching a set of joint proposals about the future of your family instead of issuing court proceedings and embarking on costly litigation. Your mediator will facilitate a discussion on the issues and ensure, each person is properly listened to, and is able to speak freely. This is an important aspect of the mediation process. You may not necessarily agree with your partner's point of view, but it is important to understand their position. Mediation is a voluntary and confidential process. The content of discussions is kept within the mediation sessions and cannot be used against either party in any subsequent court proceedings. This is known as mediation privilege.

### **MEDIATION** IS SUITABLE FOR:

- Divorce and the financial aspect of your divorce
- Child arrangements following separation
- Property concerns relating to unmarried families
- Terms of pre and post-nuptial agreements
- Agreeing terms of pre and post-nuptial agreements
- Moving to another country with your children following separation

### **THE INITIAL** MEETING

Both parties will have an initial individual meeting before the first joint session. This is an opportunity to ask questions about the process as well as establish your goals. Your mediator, Claire, will also assess whether she considers your case is suitable for mediation.

Continued overleaf

## THE MEDIATION

The role of the mediator is to facilitate constructive discussion. They will set out what each of your concerns are in order that you can both talk through them and find a resolution together.

You will be able to discuss the practical and emotional implications of your options and look at suggested alternative options. These discussions will take place in a safe and non-confrontational environment and our aim is that you will feel in control and empowered by the process and the proposals that you make.

Despite all of our mediators being specialist family lawyers, our mediators are unable to provide legal advice during the mediation process. Our mediators will however, provide information on key aspects of family law. Should you require advice on your legal options and position, you must take independent legal advice. In fact, our mediators will encourage this throughout the mediation process.

The mediation sessions will last approximately 1 hour each and you can have as many sessions as you need. However, if at any time you feel that the process is not working for you there is no obligation to continue. It is sometimes helpful to take short breaks during the process.

The aim is to find the right outcomes for you and your family.

## AFTER MEDIATION

Any joint outcome proposals reached in mediation are not binding upon you. In order for them to become binding, they will need to be approved by a judge. Since all of our mediators are also experienced family solicitors, they will ensure that all relevant issues have been addressed and the joint outcome proposals can be converted into a draft court order to be approved by a family judge.

Claire is available to conduct sole mediations and co-mediations at all of our offices as well as in London. When appropriate, Claire can bring other specialists in to the mediation process – such as accountants, IFAs and therapists to assist you in reaching an agreement for your family's future.

Not every case or every party will suit the mediation process. If you would like to explore whether mediation is appropriate for you, or you would like further information about the process and guidance on the costs, please contact Claire today.

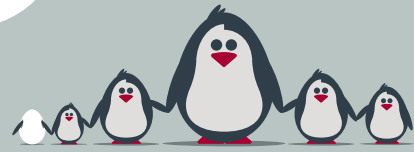
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**RAYDEN**SOLICITORS

**Specialist** family lawyers.

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*"Having practiced family law for almost a decade I am very conscious of the challenges that clients may face emotionally, as well as the stress that they may face when dealing with complex issues arising over financial matters and arrangements for children. Through mediation I can support couples as they try to navigate these difficult discussions and help them to reach an agreement that provides a lasting outcome for the couple. Couples can retain control and find a solution that works for them."*

*Claire Howard*

A **silver lining**  
with every dark cloud.  
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