



Your Family Questions answered

Q My husband and I separated last year having been married for 25 years. My husband is living with his new girlfriend. I am still living in the family home but as our youngest daughter has just moved out I think that it's time to sort out the legal aspects of our separation. We can't talk about anything. A friend has told me about mediation but I am worried that it will be a way to try and make us get back together. What is mediation?

A: Mediation is not a form of marriage guidance.

Mediation is a way of trying to agree all aspects of your separation such as divorce, and the financial aspects without expensive and stressful contested court proceedings.

Mediation provides a private, safe place where you and your husband can meet with a mediator to try and resolve matters. The mediator will help you to focus on the issues that need decisions. Mediation is voluntary however anyone making an application to the Court with regard to the financial aspects of a family breakdown will have to show, by obtaining a document

from a mediator, that they have considered mediation.

Mediators are impartial and do not judge. They can make suggestions and give information regarding possible ways forward to help you reach agreement however the decisions are your decisions.

If you want to consider mediation you can arrange an appointment with our mediator either on your own or together before the actual mediation starts.

Our experienced mediator has expertise to handle the sensitive emotional issues as well as the legal aspects that arise on separation.

All discussions in mediation are confidential and "without prejudice" and they cannot be used in court as evidence if the mediation is not successful.

Mediation does not, however, replace legal advice. It is important to be advised during the mediation process and to implement any mediated agreement to ensure that it is binding.

Contact Sian Hopkin on 01934 623501 or hopkin@powellslaw.com who is a mediator accredited by the Law Society.