

START AFRESH MEDIATION

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Information about MIAM

What is a MIAM?

MIAM is short for a Mediation Information Assessment Meeting.

What happens at a MIAM?

- A MIAM is an opportunity for you to discuss your circumstances with a mediator (me).
- You will attend your MIAM alone, without being accompanied by anyone.
- Your ex-partner will not be present during the MIAM.
- I will explain how mediation can help you and we will discuss whether mediation is suitable for you.
- I will help you explore various options to reach an agreement with your ex-partner regarding children, property, and financial matters. If you come to an agreement through mediation, it can save you a significant amount of money and stress compared to going to court. It is estimated that pursuing family matters through the courts can cost up to £25,000 per person. If you agree on a resolution during mediation, your costs will be significantly lower.

Why do I have to attend a MIAM?

- The MIAM is an opportunity for you to explain your circumstances to me.
- I will then give you information about the mediation process and how mediation may help you in resolving your family dispute.
- I will guide you through different options of resolving child arrangements, property, and financial matters with your ex-partner outside of court.
- Before making an application to the court, it is a legal requirement to attend a MIAM. Failure to attend a MIAM may result in the judge not allowing your application to proceed.

What can be discussed at a MIAM?

We can talk about anything to do with your relationship breakdown, for example:

- Child arrangement issues – how much time each of you spends with the children during the week and weekends, school holiday arrangements, child maintenance issues, passports, and trips abroad;
- Parenting plan;
- Child contact with extended family members (grandparents, cousins, etc.);
- Planning for a trial separation
- Financial arrangements on separation
- Non-legal issues arising from divorce or family breakup generally, e.g. communication or boundaries; and
- Any other matters important in your specific situation.

How long does a MIAM last?

- 45-60 minutes.
- I facilitate all MIAM meetings through Zoom.

What happens after a MIAM?

- I will contact your ex-partner by email or letter to invite them to MIAM;
- They will have 14 days to confirm whether they wish to attend their MIAM; and
- If your ex-partner does not contact me within 7 days, I will call them to ask whether they would like to attend MIAM.

What happens if my ex-partner would not attend their MIAM or contact Start Afresh Mediation?

- If your ex-partner does not respond, upon your request, I will issue a certificate confirming you attended a MIAM.
- You can use this certificate to make an application to court.
- The certificate will remain valid for four months starting from the date of your MIAM. If you fail to initiate court proceedings within this timeframe, you might need to attend another MIAM before submitting your application to the court.

What happens after we have both attended our MIAMs?

I will contact you to arrange a date and time for your first mediation session.

What is the cost of MIAM and the court certificate?

- I charge each person £99 for their MIAM; and
- I charge £85 to issue a court certificate confirming your attendance at MIAM.

What if I need to change or cancel any scheduled MIAM or mediation session?

- You can reschedule or cancel your MIAM meeting or mediation session if you give me at least 4 working days' notice;
- A cancellation or change made 3 business days prior to your scheduled appointment entitles you to a 50% refund; and
- You will not receive a refund if you cancel or reschedule your appointment 2 or 1 business days in advance.

How can I get more information about MIAMs and Mediation?

- Visit my website: startafresh-mediation.co.uk
- Call me: 0787 210 7777
- Email me: joanna@startafresh-mediation.co.uk
- My office hours are from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday. Appointments outside of these hours are available upon request with an additional 20% fee.