

Cost of Mediation

	Legally aided clients	Non-legally aided clients
Form FM1 Administration	FREE	£30
Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting (MIAM)	FREE	£24 per person
Mediation appointment	FREE	£100 per person per hour
Proposal Documents	FREE	£100 per person per document

Pre-mediation

There are 2 stages to pre-mediation.

Form FM1 administration fee: £30

This form is only required where you may be intending to apply to court in certain family cases.

Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting (MIAM): £24*

If either of you is eligible for legally aided mediation, all costs for pre-mediation are paid by legal aid. If either of you has been referred to mediation by a solicitor because of an existing legal aid application (called a Funding Code referral) legal aid will pay for pre-mediation, regardless of whether either of you is actually legally aided on assessment.

If you think you might be eligible for legally aided mediation you should tell us as soon as possible in order to avoid unnecessary charges.

*please note that this is the charge per person – if you attend a joint MIAM, the cost will be £24 for each of you.

Mediation

£100 per person per hour for meetings

£100 Open Finance Statement (per person)

£100 Memorandum of Understanding (per person)

We charge on a per person basis for each hour of mediation. We do not as a rule charge for telephone calls, letters or emails unless warranted by the circumstances of your case, and then only in discussion with you. We do charge for documents produced at the end of mediation summarising proposals, again chargeable on a per person basis. If your mediation is about finances, we are likely to draft two documents, an Open Finance Statement and a Memorandum of Understanding.

Legally Aided Mediation

We have a contract with the Legal Services Commission which means that we can offer legally aided mediation. If you are eligible, all your mediation costs will be met by legal aid. Your mediator will need to have completed the necessary forms before you begin mediation or you will be charged as a fee paying client. A separate fact sheet 'Assessing you for Legally Aided Mediation' is available. If we have not already provided you with a copy please contact the office or download it from our website.

Anyone can ask for an assessment to see if they are eligible for legally aided mediation at any time during mediation. If you are eligible, legal aid will pay for all your mediation costs. If we have already billed you for any services, you will be refunded.

Paying for Mediation

All prices are inclusive of VAT.

The fee for FM1 administration is payable before we provide the form.

Payment for meetings, including MIAMs is payable at or before the meeting.

Charges for documents pay for preparation time and we will therefore charge you at the point we are ready to begin drafting them.

As a not for profit service we endeavour to keep our costs affordable and paying promptly helps us to do this. It also means that you avoid building up a large bill. Where you fail to pay for work, we may cancel subsequent meetings and ultimately close your file. If you cancel at late notice (within 3 days of your meeting taking place) we may charge you the equivalent of an hour's mediation. If a regular pattern of cancellation builds up we may refuse to book further meetings and close your file.

Payment can be made by cheque, debit or credit card. We can accept Bacs transfers by prior arrangement. We prefer not to take payments by cash and would ask that you never send us cash in the post.

If you have any concerns about your ability to pay for mediation please discuss this with your mediator as soon as possible.

Cost of Litigation

Mediation is less expensive than the cost of litigation. Where a case has to go to court, costs can quickly rise to many thousands of pounds. Even if you are legally aided, there may be a cost to you in litigation because of the Statutory Charge. The Statutory Charge does not apply in family mediation and it can therefore be a very cost effective way of reaching agreement. More information about the Statutory Charge is available from the office and on our website.

More Information

If you have any questions contact us:

by telephone on 0121 233 1999

by email to enquiries@bdfm.org.uk

Or check out our website www.bdfm.org.uk