

Initial (Pre Mediation) Interview

West Wales Mediation is a trading division of Bristol Family Mediation and makes no charge for the Initial meeting with a mediator.

Publicly Funded Mediation

The eligibility limit for publicly funded mediation is much higher than for "Legal Help" which your solicitor may have discussed with you. A brief calculation will be carried out at the initial meeting to check your eligibility. **It is essential, therefore, to bring documents showing your income and any state benefits you may receive. We also need your N.I. number.**

Comparison with Legal Costs

We are required to give an estimate as to what the costs would be to the Legal Services Commission if you obtain public funding and had to deal with this matter through the courts.

The likely total cost of finance and property matters (AIM) within divorce proceedings could be between £500 and £3,000 plus. In a dispute about arrangements for a child, i.e. contact, the costs would typically be less than £1,000 but could be considerably more. In some circumstances the costs may also have to be repaid to the Legal Services Commission.

We recommend that clients obtain independent legal advice from their solicitors as to what exactly the costs of their case may be.

Mediation Fees

If you are not eligible for publicly funded mediation the hourly fee rates will vary depending on your gross annual income and are as follows:

Gross income less than £25000pa	= £ 55.00 per hour
Gross income £25001-£35000	= £ 80.00 per hour
Gross income £35001 - £45000	= £110.00 per hour
Gross income over £45001	= £135.00 per hour

Although assessments for public funding will be based on applicant and cohabitants joint income where appropriate, the payment rates, as now, will be based on the applicant's sole income.

Refusal of client to disclose income – charge £25 for intake and top rates for mediation.

A session is normally an hour to an hour and a half. AIM would typically take between 2 and 4 sessions.

Written Summary

Where a written summary is provided during or at the conclusion of mediation if you are receiving public funding, the summary is free.

If you are not receiving public funding there is a charge of:

- £55 per person inc. VAT is made for a short summary or financial statement, if not part of MOU.

We also produce a written summary and financial schedule on conclusion – a Memorandum of Understanding – and charge the equivalent of 2 hours work for this document. All other administrative work by the mediator is included in the hourly rate.

24 hour notice is required when cancelling an appointment, otherwise an hour's fee could be charged.

FM1

From 6th April 2011 all potential applications to court in relevant family matters will be required to show that they have first considered mediation as an alternative to court proceedings. A new FM1 form, signed by a mediator, will be required before the application to court can be made.

Fee - £80.00 plus VAT

The Statutory Charge

In many cases, public funding provided for the purpose of obtaining solicitor representation is subject to the "Statutory Charge" i.e. it may have to be paid back when money is received or property is sold. However, publicly funded mediation is not subject to this Charge and is therefore genuinely free to those who qualify. Additional "Help with Mediation" (advice or assistance from a solicitor in connection with mediation) is also not generally subject to this Charge.

Conclusion

The initial meeting is partly designed to help you decide whether mediation is right for you and to deal with all your queries. We may also be able to help in other ways. We are a non profit making service and all fees go towards our work.

Each client is responsible for his/her own payment, which is made at the time of the appointment, either by cash, cheque payable to 'BFM-W Wales' or credit card.

WEST WALES MEDIATION

CLIENT FEES

There is no charge for the
initial meeting with a mediator

If you have any queries
Please contact

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