
What is a MIAM?

Mediation Information and Assessment Meetings, known as “MIAMs”, are an essential first step in many family court proceedings.

When do I need to attend a MIAM?

Before applying for many family court orders you usually need to attend a MIAM, unless one of the exemptions applies. These orders include:

- A child arrangements order about the time your child(ren) spend with each parent; and/or
- An order to determine the financial arrangements following separation.

Who conducts the MIAM?

A MIAM must be run by an authorised family mediator. A mediator is a neutral third party, specially trained to help individuals (for example, ex-partners) resolve family disputes. They don't take sides or give legal advice, although they can give you legal information. They act as an intermediary who is there to help you find points of agreement and settle areas of dispute.

What happens at a MIAM?

The aim of a MIAM is to explain the ways in which you can resolve your dispute without the court getting involved, and to help assess whether your case may be suitable for mediation. Your mediator will also assess whether you may receive funding to support the process. They will consider with you and take into account any safeguarding and domestic abuse issues.

There are many benefits to mediation; for example flexibility, speed and cost. Importantly you and your ex make decisions about your family, and conflict should be reduced. This is particularly important if you have children. Discussion, collaboration and compromise should result paving the way for a better future parenting relationship.

You each attend your MIAM separately, and ideally with the same mediator. You can then meet together if you and the mediator agree that your case is suitable. If your case is not suitable, then the mediator will sign the form that you need so that you can make an application to the court if you wish.



You could get a contribution towards the cost of mediation under the Family Mediation Voucher Scheme

In March 2021, the Ministry of Justice launched a time-limited voucher scheme to encourage more separated parents to consider mediation as an alternative to court. Separated parents may be entitled to a **£500 contribution** towards the cost of mediation.

Mills & Reeve have signed up to the scheme and if the funding remains available our mediators will be able to accept the voucher as payment towards the costs of mediation.



Mills & Reeve LLP is a limited liability partnership authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and registered in England and Wales with registered number OC326165. Its registered office is at 7th & 8th floors, 24 King William Street, London, EC4R 9AT, which is the London office of Mills & Reeve LLP. A list of members may be inspected at any of the LLP's offices. The term "partner" is used to refer to a member of Mills & Reeve LLP.

The contents of this document are copyright © Mills & Reeve LLP. All rights reserved. This document contains general advice and comments only and therefore specific legal advice should be taken before reliance is placed upon it in any particular circumstances. Where hyperlinks are provided to third party websites, Mills & Reeve LLP is not responsible for the content of such sites.

Mills & Reeve LLP will process your personal data fairly and lawfully in accordance with professional standards and the Data Protection Act 2018, General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (as applicable) and any other applicable laws relating to the protection of personal data and the privacy of individuals. You can set your marketing preferences or unsubscribe at any time from Mills & Reeve LLP marketing communications at www.preferences.mills-reeve.com or by emailing preferences@mills-reeve.com T +44(0)344 880 2666