

## **Our Charges Explained**

### **Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting - MIAM**

Before an application can be made to court, you are now required to attend a MIAM meeting to see if mediation can resolve your difficulties, rather than going to court. The meeting will be 30-40 minutes.

The main aims of this meeting are to:

- Check that we hold all your correct details
- Take some background information on your situation
- Explain the mediation process and its benefits
- See if you are eligible for Legal Aid

***If we assess you or the other party as eligible for Legal Aid, the Legal Aid Agency will meet the fee for this meeting for both of you. Either download our Legal Aid Checklist from the website or contact our admin team on 01202 721822 if you are not sure what you need to bring to be assessed for Legal Aid, and/or if you want to know whether the other party has been assessed for Legal Aid. We will have to take payment for the meeting initially however, until such time as all required income proof is provided.***

**The charge for the MIAM is £80 plus VAT per person, per session.**

### **Certification for Court proceedings (if required)**

If you decide to make an application to Court, you may be required to get an accredited mediator to certify your attendance at a MIAM or that mediation is unsuitable, or that you tried mediation and it broke down. All of our Mediators are authorised to issue this certification, on production of the relevant form by you (the court can provide you with the form you need).

**The charge for Certification for Court Proceedings is £50 plus VAT.**

### **Mediation Sessions**

Mediation sessions are usually scheduled for 90 minutes. Sometimes, if the session is funded by the Legal Aid Agency, it may be scheduled for 60 minutes. Your appointment letter should clarify this, but our Administration Team can also do so if this is unclear.

**If you have been assessed as eligible for Legal Aid, each of your mediation sessions will be free.**

***If you are not eligible for Legal Aid, but the other party is eligible, you may be able to get your first session for free also. In addition, it only applies to the first session – after that you would need to pay for your sessions.***

**Other than above, you will need to pay for each mediation session. The charge is £165 plus VAT per person, per session.**

Payment is expected at the start of each session. You can pay by cheque, debit card, or credit card.

The session charge covers the session itself, the Mediator's preparation for each session, telephone calls and letters both before and after the session, and all administration work relating to your case.

### **Child Consultations**

Child consultation as part of the mediation process takes place with two Mediators but neither parent present. These sessions are usually shorter than mediation sessions – typically around 30 – 45 minutes.

**Unless you qualify for legal aid, the charge for a child consultation is £80 plus VAT per parent.**

### **Mediation Summary & Open Financial Statements**

At the end of the mediation process, if agreement is reached, your Mediator will prepare a Mediation Summary setting out the proposals reached. In financial cases, this will often also include an Open Financial Statement setting out the financial disclosure provided by both parties in the mediation and any supporting documents. These documents are important and often required by solicitors who are advising you at the end of the process. In most cases you will need to attend a shorter, final session to go through, approve and sign off the Mediation Summary. These sessions usually last for 30 – 60 minutes and are charged at a lower session fee.

**Unless you qualify for Legal Aid, all charges below apply per person.**

- **Attendance at a session to approve and sign the Mediation Summary is £80 plus VAT**
- **Laceys Mediation to provide a Mediation Summary is £60 plus VAT**
- **Laceys Mediation to provide the Open Financial Statement is £60 plus VAT**

**We reserve the right to charge for post that needs to be sent by recorded/special delivery.**

### **Money on Account**

Monies may be held to cover costs and/or other fees which may arise during the conduct of the mediation [including cancellation fees]. Any excess funds will be refunded to you at the conclusion of the matter.

### **Cancellation Charges**

**A session cancelled at less than two working days notice, except in cases of genuine emergency, may be charged for at the rate of £82.50 plus VAT.**

The right to charge a cancellation fee applies to all clients irrespective as to whether they are in receipt of legal aid and the cancellation fee will not be covered by the Legal Aid Agency.