

# Family Law Mediation

with Blanchfield Nicholls



## What is mediation?

Mediation is a dispute resolution process where an independent, neutral mediator facilitates a discussion between parties to resolve conflict.

The most common forms of mediation used in family law are:

- **Facilitative mediation** where the mediator guides the parties through a process of identifying and exploring the issues and interests, generating options and finding solutions
- **Evaluative mediation** where the mediator takes a more active role in expressing their view on the merits of competing proposals and likely outcomes if the matter was to be determined by a court.

## Benefits of Mediation

Mediation has many benefits, including:

- It is **confidential** and the issues discussed cannot be raised in Court proceedings
- It is **cost effective**. Mediation costs are cheaper than preparing for hearing and even if the matter does not resolve, mediation often limits the issues in dispute making for a cheaper hearing.
- It is **quick** to arrange
- Mediation gives the parties **certainty over the outcome** and the ability to fit the nuances of their circumstances
- It **empowers parties to take control** over their future
- It **preserves relationships** and protects children from being exposed to long-term conflict

# The Mediation Process

## STEP ONE:

### Availability and booking

Agree with the other party to appoint Caitlin as your mediator and make a tentative booking for your preferred mediation date

## STEP TWO:

### Information

Provide us with basic information to allow a Mediation Agreement to be prepared. The parties provide information about the issues in dispute and provide the relevant documents for the mediator to review.

## STEP THREE:

### Pre-mediation conferences

The mediator has a conference with each party and their lawyer to discuss the mediation format and process, the parties' interests goals and concerns for the mediation, and further steps to prepare for the mediation.

## STEP FOUR:

### Mediation

The mediation gives all parties the opportunity to provide their view on what they want to achieve from the mediation, and consider and negotiate options and proposals for settlement.

## STEP FIVE:

### Agreement and finalisation

The parties reach agreement and if necessary formalise the agreement through Consent Orders, a Parenting Plan or Financial Agreement



### Meet your mediator Caitlin Torr



Caitlin is a Sydney-based Nationally Accredited Mediator and family lawyer.

Caitlin brings over 10 years experience as a family lawyer to help parties resolve parenting and property disputes with dignity, compassion and respect.

Caitlin knows the most rewarding part of being a family law professional is ensuring the parties avoid the cost, uncertainty and delays of litigation and empowering them to make the best decisions for their future.

### Mediation Packages

#### HALF DAY PACKAGE

\$2,500 plus GST

Pre-mediation conference with each party

3.5 hour mediation from 9.30am-1pm or 1-4.30pm

Free travel in Sydney metro Suitable for

- simple or limited issues financial matters
- parenting with limited issues\*
- interim disputes

#### FULL DAY PACKAGE

\$3,600 plus GST

Pre-mediation conference with each party

Full day mediation from 9.30am-4.30pm

Free travel in Sydney metro Suitable for:

- parenting and property matters
- complex financial matters
- parenting with multiple issues\*

#### ADDITIONAL COSTS

Additional hours charged at \$400+GST/hr

Pre-mediation conferences will be charged at \$400+GST if the mediation is cancelled and not rescheduled

\*Caitlin is not a registered FDRP and cannot issue s60I certificates