

Our Team

Leeds Day is the only law firm in Huntingdonshire in which all their family lawyers are accredited specialist members of Resolution (formerly the Solicitor's Family Law Association).



Abby Smith is a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives and approved by Resolution to carry out Family Mediations.



Tamara Glanvill and Simon Thomas are both Solicitors and Partners at Leeds Day. They are both trained by Resolution to undertake Collaborative Law.



As members of Resolution, our lawyers all commit to a code of practice formulated by Resolution to ensure all work is carried out in a non-confrontational way. This greatly reduces the emotional and financial costs of divorce or family breakdown for all those involved. Mediation and Collaborative Law are the best approaches to achieve this goal.



LEEDS·DAY

Solicitors

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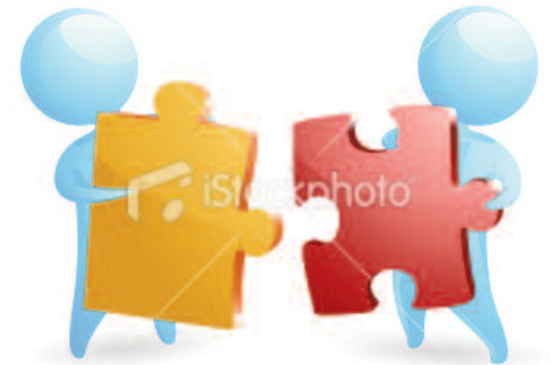
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Mediation and Collaborative appointments can be held at any of the three offices.

Mediation & Collaboration

...finding solutions together

solution solution



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Overview

Almost always the best solutions are those which you work out for yourselves, together.

That is what Mediation and Collaborative Law is all about - **reaching solutions together**, without the pain of court proceedings and in a way that focuses on the needs of the parties and any children of the family.

Traditionally when couples separate they each instruct independent lawyers and either negotiate via correspondence or go through the family court system where a decision can be imposed upon them.

However, Leeds Day have worked hard to give their clients **options** to avoid this often confrontational, emotional and costly traditional approach.



Mediation

Mediation is a process that separating couples can use to help them **resolve disputes** in a co-operative and amicable way. Mediators are trained to help couples resolve any disputes arising from a separation, whether it be financial or children issues. A mediator can help identify the issues that require discussion and help couples reach a suitable **solution** together, without the need for the court to impose arrangements.

Mediation is a way in which couples **retain control** for the benefit of themselves and their children. Mediation can help avoid lengthy and costly disputes which may otherwise arise in court proceedings.

Mediators are always neutral and will not take sides. A mediator, who is also a trained lawyer, can provide legal information in a **fair and unbiased** way and couples can return to their own independent legal advisors for individual advice throughout the mediation process.

Once an agreement is reached the mediator will prepare a summary report that both parties can take to their legal advisors and the necessary legal documentation can be prepared to give legal effect to the agreement reached.

Collaborative Law

In Collaborative Law both parties instruct independent lawyers and **commit to working together** to reach a solution that is fair and legally binding, without the threat of court proceedings. Rather than conducting negotiations via letter, you and your respective lawyers all meet face to face. You set the agenda for the meetings so that any issues you want to consider are discussed.



Each of you will have a lawyer by your side throughout the process for **support and legal advice**. Each lawyer and client will sign an agreement to commit to exclude court proceedings from the process and to work towards

a solution amicably. This helps the parties remain in control of the outcome and achieve a **fair and reasonable settlement**. This is best for their family and means the lawyers are also absolutely **committed to helping you** find the best solution by agreement, rather than through conflict.

Once an agreement is reached the lawyers will put it into effect and, if appropriate, send it to the court for sealing.