

Finding a Family Mediator

To find a family mediator in an area close to you, you should visit the Family Mediation Council (FMC) website where there is a Find Your Local Mediator section. The website address is www.familymediationcouncil.org.uk

Broadly speaking there are two main categories of practising mediators, those who are FMC accredited and those who have undertaken their foundation training and are working towards their accreditation.

Only family mediators who are FMC Accredited Family Mediators (FMCA) should represent themselves as family mediators. Otherwise they can say that they have completed initial training and are registered (if they are) with the FMC as working towards fully qualified status as a family mediator.

The plan is that the FMC website will show which mediators are FMCA but it presently (July 2015) does not.

Questions to Ask a Mediator about Qualification

Broadly a mediator who is FMCA has to be either recognised as competent to do legally aided mediation and/or have achieved the FMC Assessment of Professional Competence or its predecessors.

Additionally, they can have undertaken their accreditation with the Law Society and/or be accredited with either the Family Mediators Association (FMA) or Resolution. In the FMA this is now known as having Senior Mediator Status.

Please note that “accreditation” with both Resolution and the FMA does not simply mean that a mediator has completed initial (foundation) training with either organisation but that she or he has a further qualification. You can ask a mediator whether he or she is FMCA and, if so, what the basis of that is.

In order to be FMCA a mediator also has to be a member in good standing of one of the family mediation professional bodies which are ADR, the College of Mediators, the FMA, the Law Society, National Family Mediation (NFM) and Resolution. You should ask about membership.

Other Questions You May Want to Ask

1. Do you specialise in children or finance or do you do both?
2. Do you offer legally aided mediation in cases where participants or one of them are/is financially eligible?
3. How much do you charge private clients for an assessment meeting and for mediation?
4. Are you eligible to offer a mediation information and assessment meeting (MIAM) and to sign court forms? Please note that after December 2015 only FMCA mediators will be able to sign court forms.
5. Are you trained to carry out direct consultation with children?
6. Do you have a professional practice consultant (PPC) and comply with your professional body's requirements in that regard? All family mediators should have a PPC.