

How to  
contact one  
of our  
mediators

Booking an appointment is the first step towards a mediated settlement. Please contact us at either our Godalming, Guildford or Woking office to arrange an appointment.

**[www.barlowrobbins.com](http://www.barlowrobbins.com)**

This leaflet is provided for your general information only and does not seek to set out the legislation in this area in detail. If you have any queries or wish to discuss specific circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Mediators who will be happy to assist.

Contact us:



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Qualified as an Advanced Mediator with the Association of Family Mediators Association (FMA), Resolution (formerly Solicitors Family Law Association) and the Law Society's Family Law Panel.



**Barbara Wright**

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A member and former Chair of Surrey Solicitors Family Law Association (now known as Resolution), Barbara is a keen advocate of its code and often settles matters by mediation and other collaborative methods.



**Karen Barham**

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Karen is a Consultant specialising in family mediation. Karen is currently Chair of Resolution Surrey.

Family  
Mediation

**BARLOW ROBBINS LLP**  
Solicitors

## What is Mediation?

Mediation is an alternative way for couples to deal with the issues that arise on separation and divorce, including dealing with the finances and the arrangements for the children.

The principle of mediation is that a neutral, specially qualified third party helps the couple to a negotiated settlement. It is often a cheaper, quicker and less antagonistic process which can benefit the whole family.

Couples who have decided to divorce or separate work together with their mediator to try and resolve the issues. The mediator is highly trained and impartial; he or she does not take sides and is non-judgemental. The mediator works with and for you both in helping you to reach agreement in a non-adversarial environment.

Meetings with the mediator take place with both of you in the same room, on neutral ground. It helps you communicate and co-operate and this is highly beneficial particularly if you have children.



If financial issues need to be resolved, the mediator will help you to do this. You will both have to produce all your financial information so that positive discussions can take place. Everything discussed with the mediator is confidential.

You and your mediator sit down together and try to work out a Memorandum of Understanding which covers all the issues such as what will happen to the family home, where the children will live, how they spend time with each parent and a financial settlement.

Lines of communication are established and you take control over decision making, over your own lives and your children's future.

You will be encouraged to focus on your futures and to look forward to developing new and separate lives.

The aim is to reach decisions in a constructive, dignified and non-adversarial way. It generally saves time and money and is more civilised.

Divorce and separation can be extremely stressful and emotions run high – your mediator will guide you both through this difficult time.

## What are the costs and how long does it take?

Each session usually lasts for about one and a half hours and the number of sessions required depends upon the issues to be covered and varies from couple to couple.

Usually, between three and six sessions are needed. Full details of our costs will be provided and each session is invoiced at the time so that large bills are not run up.

## The first step ...

You must both agree to give mediation a try. You do not have to be on the best of terms with your partner for this process to work, but you do at least need to be willing to communicate. You must both be prepared to disclose your financial situation fully and frankly and you must be committed to trying to resolve issues constructively and be prepared to compromise.

At Barlow Robbins LLP, our mediators are experienced family lawyers and can help you to reach a settlement which the Court will endorse.

## So how does it work?