

## Legal Aid for Family Mediation

The government supports mediation and understands that people need to access legal advice when they are coming to mediation. For this reason, if you are eligible for legally aided mediation, the Legal Aid Agency will pay for:

- Your information and assessment meeting
- Your ex partner's information and assessment meeting
- The first joint mediation session
- An hour of legal advice in support of mediation
- The cost of writing up an agreed order to make it legally binding

To access this, you need to have attended a mediation information and assessment meeting and have a joint session arranged. The mediator will give you a signed CW5 form that you can take to a solicitor offering legal aid.

When you come to a mediation information and assessment meeting (MIAM), which will be your initial session with a mediator, it is essential that you bring with you:

- Your national insurance number
- An estimate of the value of all your capital assets, including the value of your home and any other properties
- A bank statement covering the four-week period before the meeting with the mediator PLUS:
- If you are employed, proof of your income via payslips covering the four-week period before the meeting
- If you are self employed, your most recent accounts or tax return
- If you are in receipt of benefits or tax credits, a current letter (dated within the last six months) confirming your entitlement.

If you decide to make an application to court on a family matter concerning children or finances, Legal Aid will only be available if you can demonstrate:

- You have been a victim of or at risk of domestic violence
- The child who is the subject of the order is at risk of abuse from someone other than you.

Where it is safe and appropriate, family mediation is the preferred option for resolving family disputes.

Please see the attached page for more information about the documents that may be required for your legal aid assessment.

**DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE REQUIRED FOR ELIGIBILITY**

**FOR LEGAL AID FOR MEDIATION**

<b><u>CAPITAL</u></b>	<b><u>DETAILS</u></b>
1. Recent mortgage statement	
2. Recent Savings Account Statement	
3. Share Certificate	
4. Valuation of personal possessions (list where appropriate)	
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	
1. Statement dated within one month confirming receipt of Income Support/Income Based Job Seekers/Pension Credit	
2. Proof of Entitlement to other benefits e.g. incapacity benefit/Carers Allowance	
3. Working Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit Award letter	
4. Bank Statement dated for the last 28 days to date	
5. Copy pay slips for the last month	
6. Copy accounts (self-employed only) for the last year	
<b><u>OUTGOINGS</u></b>	
1. Proof of rent/mortgage payment for the last month	
2. Proof of child care expenses for the last month	
3. Proof of maintenance payments for the last month	