

Directory of solicitors dealing with family work 2009/10

This directory contains details of firms of solicitors who are willing to advise on family law matters. Family Mediation Worcestershire is grateful to all these firms for their support. However, inclusion in this directory is not to be taken as a recommendation by FMW; nor is this an exhaustive list of solicitors who deal with family work. If you require legal advice on a family law matter, you must feel free to seek advice from the firm of your choice.

BEWDLEY

Marion Evans Solicitor

67 High Street, Bewdley DY12 2DJ
Tel: (01299) 402741 Fax: (01299) 401800
Email: info@marion-evans-solicitors.co.uk

BROMSGROVE

Thomas Horton LLP

Strand House, 70 The Strand, Bromsgrove B61 8DQ
Tel: (01527) 871641 Fax: (01527) 839289
E-mail: yh@thomashorton.co.uk
Website: www.thomashorton.co.uk

EVESHAM

Atter Mackenzie

Bridge Court, 64 Bridge Street, Evesham WR11 4RY
Tel: (01386) 425300 Fax: (01386) 858157
E-mail: info@attermackenzie.co.uk
Website: www.attermackenzie.co.uk

KIDDERMINSTER

Painters Solicitors

29 Church Street, Kidderminster DY10 2AU
Tel: (01562) 822295 Fax: (01562) 513129
E-mail: mk@painters-solicitors.co.uk
Website: www.painters-solicitors.co.uk

Thursfields

14 & 27 Church Street, Kidderminster DY10 2AT
Tel: (01562) 820575 Fax: (01562) 512496
E-mail: info@thursfields.co.uk
Website: www.thursfields.co.uk

MALVERN

Gaynor-Smith Owen & Co

133-135 Barnards Green Road, Malvern WR14 3LT
Tel: (01684) 560771 Fax: (01684) 560294
E-mail: info@gsolaw.com
Website: www.gaynor-smith-owen.co.uk

Russell & Co

Holland House, 125 Church Street, Malvern WR14 2AH
Tel: (01684) 892000 Fax: (01684) 892202
E-mail: law@russell-law.co.uk
Website: www.russellandcosolicitors.co.uk

Whatley Recordon

12 Worcester Road, Malvern WR14 4QU
Tel: (01684) 892939 Fax: (01684) 892327
Email: wr@wrsolicitors.com

PERSHORE

Penny Raby & Co

Harmony House, 7-9 Church Street, Pershore, WR10 1DT
Tel: (01386) 555114 Fax: (01386) 554091
E-mail: penny@divorcefinance.co.uk
Website: www.divorcefinance.co.uk

Thomson & Bancks

37 High Street, Pershore WR10 1AH
Tel: (01386) 562000 Fax: (01386) 562020
E-mail: clw@tandblawp.co.uk
Website: www.tandblaw.co.uk

REDDITCH

Brownings

10 Market Place, Redditch B98 8AD
Tel: (01527) 62688 Fax: (01527) 596613
E-mail: stephenparker@brownings.co.uk
Website: www.brownings.co.uk

Davis Priest & Co

24 Church Green East, Redditch B98 8DE
Tel: (01527) 69231 Fax: (01527) 584822
E-mail: post@davispriest.co.uk

Kerwoods

7 Church Road, Redditch B97 4AD
Tel: (01527) 584444 Fax: (01527) 584838
E-mail: solicitors@kerwoods.co.uk
Website: www.kerwoods.co.uk

STOURPORT ON SEVERN

Painters Solicitors

1 New Street, Stourport on Severn DY13 8UN
Tel: (01299) 822033 Fax: (01299) 878888
E-mail: rsg@painters-solicitors.co.uk
Website: www.painters-solicitors.co.uk

Thursfields

The Old Inspector's House, York Street, Stourport on Severn DY13 9EE
Tel: (01299) 827517 Fax: (01299) 878070
E-mail: info@thursfields.co.uk
Website: www.thursfields.co.uk

WORCESTER

Hallmarks

4-5 Sansome Place, Worcester WR1 1UQ
Tel: (01905) 726600 Fax: (01905) 743366
E-mail: enquiries@hallmarkslaw.co.uk
Website: www.hallmarkslaw.co.uk

John Stallard & Co

2-3 Pierpoint Street, Worcester WR1 1TD
Tel: (01905) 613404 Fax: (01905) 25772
E-mail: pat.beeching@stallards.com

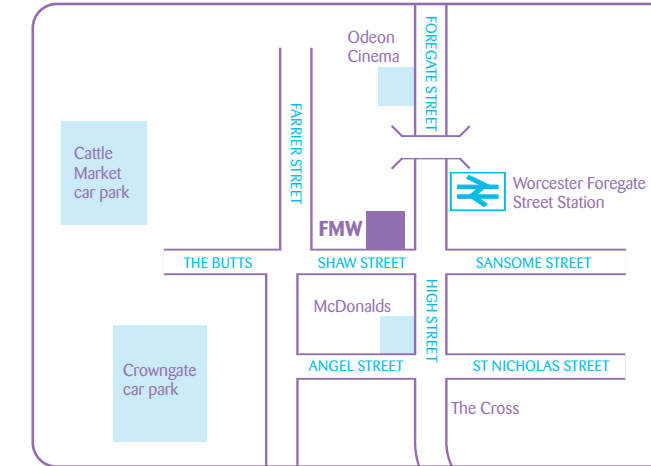
Thursfields

42 Foregate Street, Worcester WR1 1EF
Tel: (01905) 730450 Fax: (01905) 730499
E-mail: info@thursfields.co.uk
Website: www.thursfields.co.uk

Whatley Weston & Fox

16 The Tything, Worcester WR1 1HD
Tel: (01905) 731731 Fax: (01905) 22347
E-mail: s.lewis@wwf.co.uk
Website: www.wwf.co.uk

How to find us



Our main office is located just off Foregate Street in Worcester, a few minutes walk from Foregate Street railway station and the CrownGate bus station. We do not have customer parking, but we are only a short walk up The Butts from the Cattle Market car park. The office has ground floor access. However we regret that we cannot provide disabled toilet facilities.

Directions to our offices in Kidderminster and Redditch will be provided separately if required.

Family Mediation Worcestershire

Shaw Mews,
1 Shaw Street,
Worcester WR1 3QQ

T: 01905 610925

F: 01905 26765

E: enquiries@fmw.org.uk

W: www.fmw.org.uk

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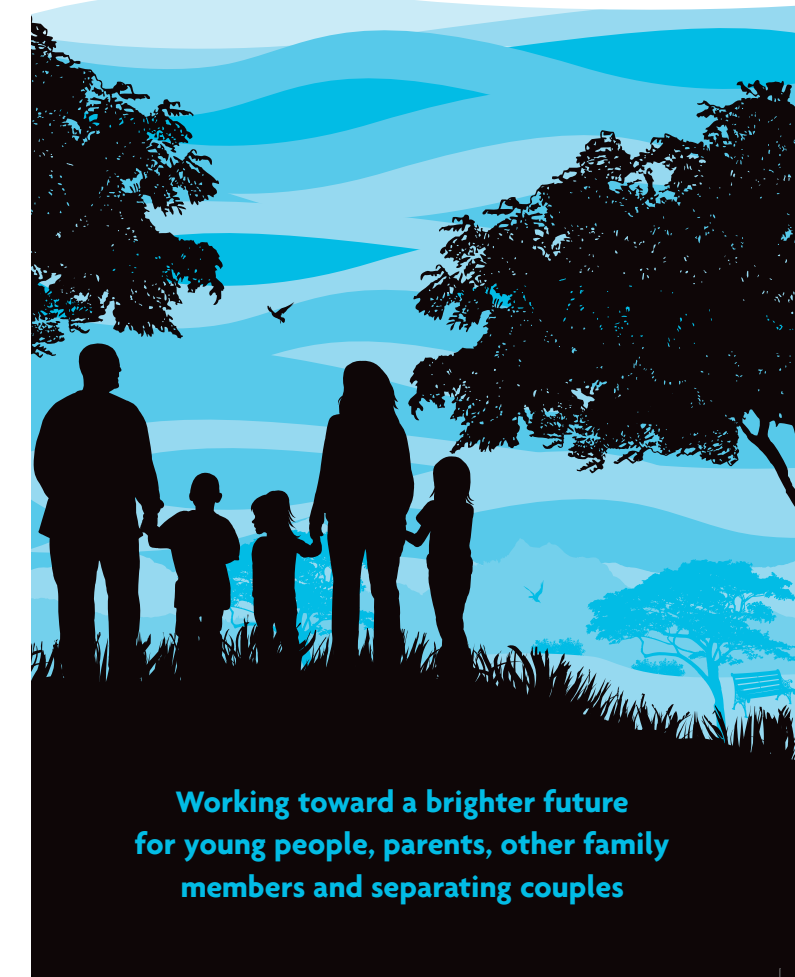
Community
Legal Service



Family
Mediation
Worcestershire



Helping families reach agreement



Working toward a brighter future
for young people, parents, other family
members and separating couples

Separation & divorce

Mediation is a good way to sort out practical family arrangements during and after divorce or separation. It enables you to retain control of the process and to make informed decisions that are right for you and your children, avoiding costly and stressful court proceedings.

In mediation you both meet together with a professional mediator in a calm, safe and supportive atmosphere where you can consider all your options and make plans for your future. Your children can also be directly involved if you wish.



CHILDREN'S ISSUES

If you are separating and you have children you may be concerned about:

- where the children will live
- how much time they will spend with each parent
- how much contact they will have with other relatives
- how to share school holidays, Christmas, birthdays and other special times
- how they are coping with new circumstances and changing relationships.



FINANCE & PROPERTY ISSUES

Whether or not you have children, you will need to consider finance and property matters in planning for your future. The mediator can help you understand the options that are available to you and assist you in achieving a fair and equitable settlement.

'Mediation can help settle disputes more cheaply, more quickly and less acrimoniously than is possible either through the courts or through legal representation.'

National Audit Office Report, March 2007

Other family problems

Mediation can also be helpful in a wide range of other family situations, for instance:

- disagreements between parents and teenagers
- communication difficulties between family members
- step-family relationship problems
- interrupted contact between grandparents and grandchildren.

Mediators will listen to your concerns and help you explore alternative courses of action to resolve the difficulties, but they will not take sides or make any decisions for you. Their task is to act as an impartial third party, managing the process and encouraging constructive communication.

What happens in mediation?

1. ASSESSMENT MEETING

You will first be invited to an initial meeting with a mediator to discuss what you hope to achieve through mediation and to decide whether it is the best way forward for you. The mediator can also carry out a financial assessment at this meeting to determine whether you are eligible for free or reduced cost mediation. You can choose to attend the assessment meeting on your own or with the other party. If you attend on your own and decide that you would like to proceed with mediation we will offer a separate appointment to the other party.

2. MEDIATION

When you have both attended assessment meetings, and providing you both want to proceed, a first joint mediation appointment will be arranged. However, if there are reasons why you cannot meet your former partner face to face, the mediator may decide that separate meetings would be more helpful. This is called 'shuttle mediation'.

Mediation sessions usually last between 1 and 1½ hours depending on the issues being discussed. The length of each meeting and the number of sessions required will vary according to each particular case, but we normally aim to conclude matters in two or three sessions.

3. FINAL REPORT / MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

When you are both satisfied that you have reached agreement on some or all of the matters under discussion a report will be prepared stating your agreement. Where agreement is reached on finance and property matters a comprehensive 'Memorandum of Understanding' will be drawn up for you both to sign. This is not a legally binding document but your solicitor can turn it into a formal legal agreement at your request.

THE MEDIATORS

Our mediators come from a variety of professional backgrounds – for example, from social work, law, counselling, education – and have extensive training and experience of family mediation. All have been trained by National Family Mediation to national standards and are members of the Family Mediation Council.

THE VENUES

Most meetings take place at our offices in Worcester, Kidderminster and Redditch. Evening mediation appointments are only available in Worcester.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All discussions are treated in complete confidence and we do not tell anyone what you have said during mediation. However if the mediator considers that anyone, especially a child, is at risk of harm, she or he has an obligation to report these concerns to an appropriate agency.



Under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, where there is clear evidence of benefit fraud, tax evasion or assets obtained through criminal activity, the mediator is required to report the matter to the appropriate Government authority.

MUST I ATTEND?

You may be required to attend an assessment meeting to find out about mediation, but mediation itself is entirely voluntary.

THE COST

If you are eligible for public funding, mediation is normally free. If you are not eligible you may qualify for reduced cost mediation on a sliding scale of charges (see separate information sheet). To be considered for free or reduced cost mediation you must complete a financial assessment with the mediator.

THE COURT

We are independent of the Court and will not tell the Court what you have said in mediation. If the Court has adjourned proceedings to give you time to attend mediation we are required to let them know how it has worked out – but we only ever tell them whether any matters have been agreed or remain in dispute.

LEGAL ADVICE

The mediation service does not provide legal advice. This can be obtained from a solicitor of your choice.

SAFETY

If you are concerned about your own safety or the safety of a child, or if you have experienced violence or intimidation in the past, please discuss this with the mediator at your first appointment. If mediation is felt to be appropriate, we are able to provide special arrangements for appointments, such as separate arrival and departure times and separate waiting areas.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have any special needs such as wheelchair access or an interpreter or signer, please let us know so that we can make suitable arrangements.

COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS

We are always glad to hear what people think about our service. Please address any comments to our manager or ask for details of our complaints procedure.

How to make an appointment

Please telephone the number below. We are open for telephone enquiries and arranging appointments between 9.30am and 1.30pm, Monday through Friday. An answer phone is in operation at other times.

Family Mediation Worcestershire

Shaw Mews,
1 Shaw Street,
Worcester
WR1 3QQ

T: 01905 610925

F: 01905 26765

E: enquiries@fmw.org.uk

W: www.fmw.org.uk

