

..... and (The Parties)
are taking part in family mediation with (The Mediator)
concerning matters arising from the breakdown of their relationship. Matters under discussion include
parenting arrangements for their child/children:

Child's name Date of Birth

Child's name Date of Birth

Child's name Date of Birth

The Parties have invited the Mediator to see their children, and this sets out the purpose of any such discussion and the basis of it.

1. The meeting between the Mediator and the children together with any communication received from the children will be confidential to them except to the extent that they themselves agree otherwise.
2. The purpose of the meeting or meetings between the Mediator and the children will be to help them understand the changes that are taking place in their lives, to help them feel listened to and understood and to give them more opportunity to express their own feelings concerns and needs.
3. The Parties understand that in view of the confidentiality, the outcome of the meeting with the children may not be made known by the Mediator to the Parties and that the Mediator will not specifically be asking the children for their own decision about parenting arrangements although that might become clear in the course of the meeting
4. The Mediator will not discuss with the children the relationship between the Parties or any financial aspects of the family.
5. The Mediator will see the children in the absence of their parents but in the presence of another mediator.
6. The rule of confidentiality could be varied by the Mediator in the event of it becoming apparent that the children appeared to be at risk.
7. The Mediator will approach the children with a view to them coming to a meeting with the Mediator, explaining to them what mediation is and that they are invited to take part.
8. Neither of the Parties will brief the children beforehand and they will not cross-question or reproach them afterwards about anything they may or may not have said.
9. The children will be invited by the Mediator to contact Laceys Mediation at any time in the future if they feel they want a further meeting. The Parties give their consent to this by signing this agreement.
10. Where parties are not in receipt of legal aid there will be a charge of £75 + v.a.t for seeing the children payable in advance.
11. In the event that matters are not resolved in mediation and an application is made to the court, the children may need to be seen by a CAFCASS officer. This could still be the case even if they have already been seen in mediation.

.....
.
Signed: Mother
Date: 25 April 2014

Signed: Father

Signed: Mediator

PLEASE READ AND COMPLETE THE INFORMATION ON THE BACK OF THIS SHEET



CHILD CONSULTATION – WHAT TO TELL THE CHILDREN.

Prior to the mediation it would be helpful if you would discuss with your child the fact that you have been mediating with their other parent and that you need to discuss arrangements which will include them. Your child needs to know that because their opinion is important to you both and you want them to be fully aware of what is going on you would like them to come in and meet the mediator. Please tell them that we will be writing to them asking them to come and see us so that the letter will not take them by surprise. We will ask them to ring us, or to ask one of their parents to ring on their behalf. If they do not wish to come in, that is fine. We do not want to put them under any sort of pressure. Most children are interested to meet us and feel important and empowered to be included in the whole process.

Please tell them that the mediator will have another mediator colleague/friend with them. Our task is to make children feel at ease, to talk to them about every day things such as school, pets and hobbies and then gradually to introduce discussions about their family. We will not be asking difficult questions or things that might upset them; rather we are trying to make sure that they are dealing with the separation process and the changes that it brings.

Please do not try to guess the questions that we will ask, or give any suggestions as to the replies your child should give or the things they should tell us. Children have a disarming way of telling us when they have been 'primed' and this really does not help them, or the mediation process.

We know from experience that sometimes it is easier for children to talk to a third party rather than someone in the middle, who may want them to take sides. We will explain about confidentiality and the only reason for us to break their confidence would be if they were in some sort of harmful situation and then we may need to get some help. In the safety of this environment we find children can express their hopes and fears for the future. We may not be able to solve everything, but we find that even listening can make a difference.

After the mediation please do not ask your children what went on. By all means, ask them what they thought of the mediator or the office, but please do not put pressure on them to reveal what they said. Children usually tell their parents they have enjoyed coming in, or they liked the biscuits and the mediator was kind. If they decide to tell you what they said, that is their choice and we will not tell them not to. However, they will have agreed with us what they want us to tell you at the 'feedback' session and we will tell you no more than that, unless we have their express permission to do so.

We will write to the children to confirm their appointment and again after their appointment to thank them for coming in.

Finally, we would ask you to respect whatever it is your child tells us. If you are determined to proceed to Court unless you get your own way, regardless of what your child may think, then we would prefer not have them involved at this stage, as this will happen with CAFCASS at Court and it is not fair to put your child through this twice. However, we always tell children that you are the parents, you two will make decisions together and this may not always be just what they want but that you will explain to them why you have made the decisions and how things will work on a day-to-day basis. Most children do not mind what the outcome is [within reason] as long as their parents are working together and not arguing.

Please complete the following to help us to put your child(ren) at ease during the meeting with them:

- Please tick to confirm that you are happy for your child to be given an edible treat and circle your preference below:

Jammie dodgers / chocolate biscuit / haribo sweets / ready salted crisps

- Please tick to confirm that you are happy for your child to be given a drink and circle your preference below:

Blackcurrant fruit shoot / orange fruit shoot / bottled water

Please provide details below of any allergies or food intolerances that your child has:

.....
.....

Please provide any information about your child(ren) that it might be helpful for the mediator to know to help put them at ease (eg - interests, hobbies, favourite characters / pop stars or a favourite toy):

.....
.....