



COST OF MEDIATION

FMSE has a contract to provide Legal Aid where mediation is FREE for those that are eligible; to complete your eligibility test please follow the directions below. For those that are not eligible, their assessment meeting and first mediation will be FREE where one party is eligible.

Checklist for Legal Aid applicants

All evidence must be sent to the mediator **5 working days in advance** of the first meeting for the mediator to assess eligibility for Legal Aid.

*Free mediation **cannot** start if the relevant documents in respect of yourself - plus any new partner who lives with you - are not produced. If you are without some or all of these documents please contact us to discuss how to deal with that.*

Documents required from you and your current partner to complete a Legal Aid assessment

1. Your National Insurance number
2. If you are in receipt of any of the following state benefits, proof of your most recent payment:
 - Jobseeker's allowance (Income or Contribution based) – **if income based, no other income evidence required**
 - Income Support - **no other income evidence required**
 - Universal Credit - **no other income evidence required**
 - ESA (Income or Contribution based) - **if income based, no other income evidence required**
 - Working Tax Credit / Child Tax Credit
 - Pension Credit – **no other income evidence required**
 - Child Benefit
 - Incapacity benefit/statutory sick pay

If your benefit states no other income evidence is required, please go to point 10 to confirm your capital position
3. Your latest payslip or last 5 if paid weekly
4. If self employed your trading accounts or business bank statement for the last 30 days, last years accounts and tax return
5. Confirmation of any other income, e.g. child support or rent received in the last 30 days
6. A bank statement (current and any savings accounts) for the last 30 days confirming that you are in receipt of any of the above income/state benefits. Please bring your last statement plus a printout to cover the period between your last statement and the day before your appointment
7. Documents confirming your housing costs in the last month
 - Rent (less any Housing Benefit you receive)
 - Mortgage repayments /endowment premiums
 - Proof of cost of board and lodging
8. Documents confirming childcare costs you have paid in the last calendar month relating to your going to work
9. Details of any maintenance or child support payments you are making direct to a former partner or to the CSA/CMS
10. Documents confirming your capital position including:
 - (i) Market value of your house or other property owned (the value of your home is included in a Legal Aid application)
 - (ii) Details of the mortgage outstanding on your property
 - (iii) Savings in bank/building society
 - (iv) Investments including shares/ISAs/insurance policies
 - (v) Valuable items eg boat, caravan
 - (vi) Other capital such as money due to you

Cost of Mediation for people not eligible for legal aid is as follows:

Individual assessment meetings cost £100 plus vat (£120).

Joint assessment meetings and on-going Mediation cost £225 inclusive of vat, per 90 minute session, per person. Please note that final written summaries, parenting plans and Memorandums are chargeable at £225 inclusive of vat, per person.