

## AGREEMENT TO MEDIATE – CHILD ISSUES

We have decided to use mediation to try and resolve issues between us concerning our child/ren and make plans for their future.

### Principles

We understand that mediation is a **voluntary** process and that nobody is to be put under pressure to attend or to agree to anything they are not happy with. Any mediation session can be cancelled, interrupted, or terminated by anyone involved.

We understand that mediation is **confidential** and we agree to abide by the service Confidentiality Agreement. **We understand that confidentiality will be broken when there are serious concerns about a child's or an adult's safety.**

We understand that mediation is **focused on the children and the future** and is neither a counselling service nor a forum to air old grudges, score points or offend or hurt the other party.

We understand that mediation is **impartial** and that the mediator will not take sides or judge the parties involved.

In using mediation we express our sincere intention to try and:

1. be fair and respectful
2. consider the individual needs of all involved, particularly those of the children
3. leave fault and blame out of the discussions
4. co-operate in trying to resolve differences
5. not expect the mediator to give advice or take sides
6. seek practical solutions to the issues and make joint decisions only when we are both ready

### Charges and payment terms

Unless otherwise agreed, fees are charged separately, per person, and are due at least two days in advance of meetings and before work is started to produce written summaries. We do not charge VAT.

A copy of our charges and payment terms will be given to you at or before the assessment meeting and by signing this agreement you are confirming that you have (i) received a copy and (ii) agree to pay Able Mediation according to those terms.

For clients eligible for public funding (**'legal aid'**) all mediation fees will be paid by the Legal Aid Agency with no charge to the client.

### Concerns and Complaints

Our mediations are conducted in accordance with the Family Mediation Council Code of Practice.

Each mediator follows the complaints procedures of his/her own membership organisation (more information is available about this on request.) In signing this Agreement to Mediate, you also both give your advance consent to the release of the file to any complaints handler should that become necessary.

However, any concern you may have as to our practice should be raised with us in the first instance; we will hope to resolve matters to your satisfaction internally and informally according to our own complaints policy. Copies of all these documents can be obtained from this service on request.

Signature.....

Signature.....

Name.....

Name.....

Date.....

Date.....

Mediator .....

Signature .....

Date.....