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FAMILY LAW DEPARTMENT
**HYBRID MEDIATION
FACT SHEET**

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The “Hybrid Mediation” model allows a couple to attempt to reach an agreement in a legally supported environment.

In Hybrid Mediation your lawyer will be with you during the Mediation to provide you with legal advice and guidance when needed. Both parties and the lawyers sign the Mediation Agreement.

The Hybrid Mediation process allows the Mediator to have separate meetings with the couple as individuals which makes it suitable for high conflict cases and those where one feels more vulnerable. Each party is supported by their lawyer.

The expectation is that the lawyers will be involved throughout in the following ways, depending on how complex your circumstances are:-

- Attending a preliminary meeting;
- Supporting the process throughout;
- Providing information including Form E;
- Attending some sessions, especially private meetings;
- Liaising as the process develops (possibly by phone);
- Drafting settlement documents.

Mediators with this training may also be brought in to assist if there is an impasse:-

- In the Collaborative process through separate meetings with the couple.
- In solicitor led negotiations.

This Hybrid Mediation model places the couple in a legally supported environment. If they are unable to resolve all issues a jointly appointed independent Arbitrator can supply a determination/award quickly.

Every effort should be made to keep the parties outside of the Court process. Delays and inefficiency experienced within the Court process are becoming increasingly and worryingly more prevalent.