



National Family Mediation

Time and Money:



- The average cost of legal aid in non mediated cases is estimated at **£1682** compared with **£752** for mediated cases representing an additional cost to the tax payer of **£74Million**
- Mediated cases are quicker to resolve taking on average **110 days** compared with **435 days** for non mediated cases

Exemptions, Barriers and Incentives:



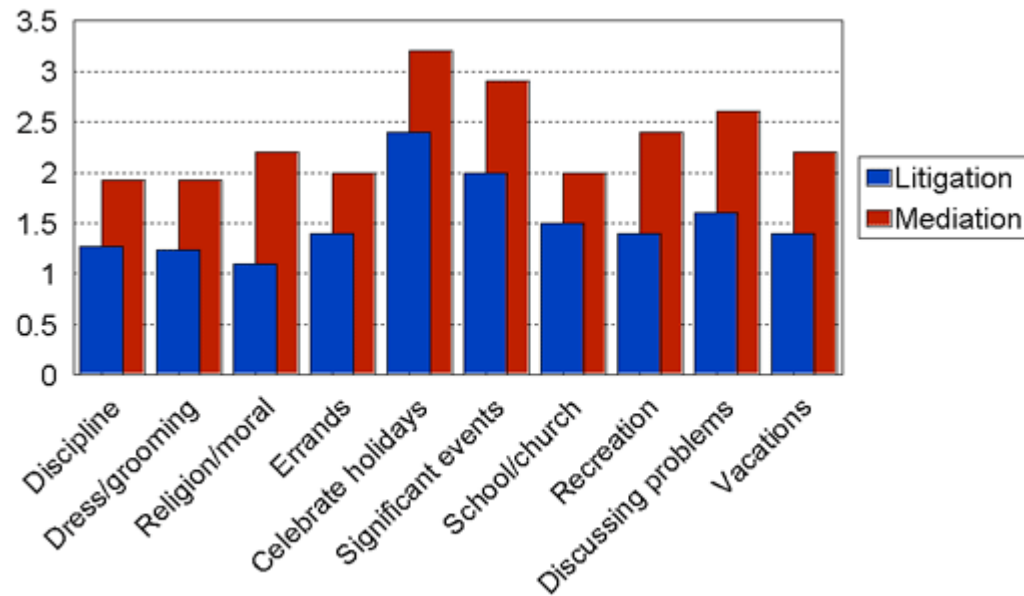
- The exemptions from mediation have been drawn too broadly and for many the assessment and eligibility process is used as a tick box exercise without a genuine attempt to engage with mediation
- There remains a general lack of understanding amongst the general public and professionals working with families about how mediation works and what it can achieve
- There are no requirements on non legally aided parties to attend a meeting with a mediator

In 2005 almost 57,000 cases were not considered suitable for mediation



Reasons cited for not referring clients to mediation	Cases that would have been assessed by a mediator	Cases that would have been assessed by a solicitor	Percentage
Emergency representation (for example when seeking an injunction)		15,889 28	28
Fear of domestic abuse		8,935 16	16
Existing proceedings		7,677 13	13
Other party unwilling to attend	7,451		13
One of the parties would have longer than a 45 minute journey each way, to see the mediator, by the fastest means of transport reasonably available to them		3,266 6	6
Mediation not suitable	2,294	,	4
Mediation broke down	1,668		3
Unable to attend because of inability, disability or restriction on travel		1,602	3
Whereabouts of other party unknown		693	1
Suitable for mediation, but no mediation has taken place or mediation has only partly resolved the issue	465		12
All other reasons		7,008	
Total	11,878	45,070	100

Non-residential Parent Child Involvement



Based on residential parent report

Emery et al 2004

Mediation can make a substantive positive impact on mental health outcomes for parents and children



- Recent innovations in child – inclusive mediation in Australia producing positive results:
- improved emotional availability of fathers and greater closeness
- improved parental alliance
- greater commitment to contact arrangements
- mother–child relations improved
- greater stability in care and contact patterns
- children have lower levels of anxiety, fewer fears and depressive symptoms
- increased level of repair to parental relationship, improved attachment and greater contentment about outcomes

(Prof Jan walker NFM Conference 2011)



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