



## CHOICE MEDIATIONS

Creating Choices, Reaching Agreements

### FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Separation and divorce can be a distressing and difficult time for everyone involved. At Choice Mediations, we aim to ease some of these burdens by providing you with an impartial, understanding and time and cost-effective mediation experience. We provide parties with the opportunity to have productive and respectful conversations that can lead to the creation of choices and options, ultimately reaching agreements that satisfy all parties.

Choice Mediations is primarily a phone mediation service. Being a phone service increases client availability, is more time effective and minimises the costs to our clients. Phone appointments are also less emotionally confronting and evocative. However, where deemed necessary, face to face appointments can be arranged.

Choice Mediations' Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners (FDRPs) are highly experienced practitioners who are all accredited with the Australian Government Attorney General's Department. As well as having post graduate qualifications in Family Dispute Resolution (FDR), our practitioners possess tertiary qualifications in law and/or psychology.

Having many affiliations with other professionals, such as lawyers, counsellors and child consultants, if deemed necessary, the practitioners at Choice Mediations are able to refer you to other services, to ensure clients receive a collaborative and comprehensive service.



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### CHILDREN'S AGREEMENTS

Our practitioners are experienced in providing FDR in relation to children's issues. The best interests of any child/ren will remain the paramount consideration in all negotiations. We can assist you to reach agreements on issues such as:

- \* Where your child/ren will live
- \* When your child/ren will see each parent
- \* Who will be involved in making parental decisions for your child/ren
- \* What happens on special occasions and holidays
- \* What activities your child/ren will be involved in
- \* When your child/ren will see significant other people in their lives
- \* Child support arrangements
- \* Any other issues your family may have

### FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS

Our practitioners are experienced in providing FDR in relation to post-separation financial issues. An agreement that is both fair and equitable to all parties involved is what our practitioners aim to achieve.

### SECTION 60I CERTIFICATES

The Family Law Act 1975 requires parties attempt to resolve disputes before applying to court for Parenting Orders. As our practitioners are accredited with the Australian Attorney-General's Department, they are authorised to issue Section 60I Certificates, which demonstrate that you have attempted FDR. There are various circumstances under which a Section 60I Certificate can be issued. These circumstances and subsequent implications can be discussed with your practitioner.

### YOUR INITIAL APPOINTMENT

An initial and confidential one-on-one appointment with each party to the dispute will help prepare you for FDR and clarify the issues and concerns that need to be resolved. This is an opportunity for the process to be explained to you and to discuss any questions and concerns you might have. This appointment is also used for your practitioner to determine whether FDR is suitable in your case, as is required under Regulation 25 of The Family Law (Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners) Regulations 2008.

### YOUR SUBSEQUENT SESSION/S

Once it has been assessed as suitable to proceed, your subsequent session/s will consist of mediation/FDR. These sessions are an opportunity for separated parties to voice their concerns and issues, determine key matters, have productive conversations, negotiate and ultimately reach agreements. These sessions generally last for three hours. More than one session may be required to allow enough time for all parties to make considered decisions.



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