

How we can help



Geelong Family Mediation

www.geelongfamilymediation.com.au

We are in agreement; we just need something formal written up...

What is Intake?

Intake allows your mediator to understand the nature of your agreement and to perform an ethical duty of care with each party.

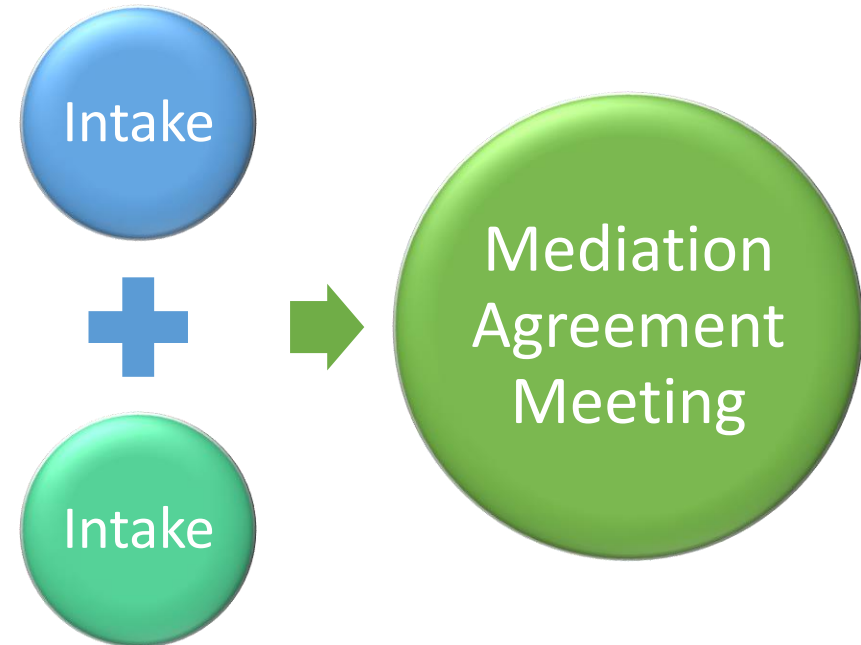
This usually only takes an hour and can be done face to face or over the phone.

What happens in a mediation agreement meeting?

This will normally be done together in the same room with your mediator or if needed over zoom.

Your mediator will:

- draft your agreement in formal terms
- help iron out any residual issues which may be there
- and support each party to have input into their agreement.



We are still together and we are looking for a way forward

What is Intake?

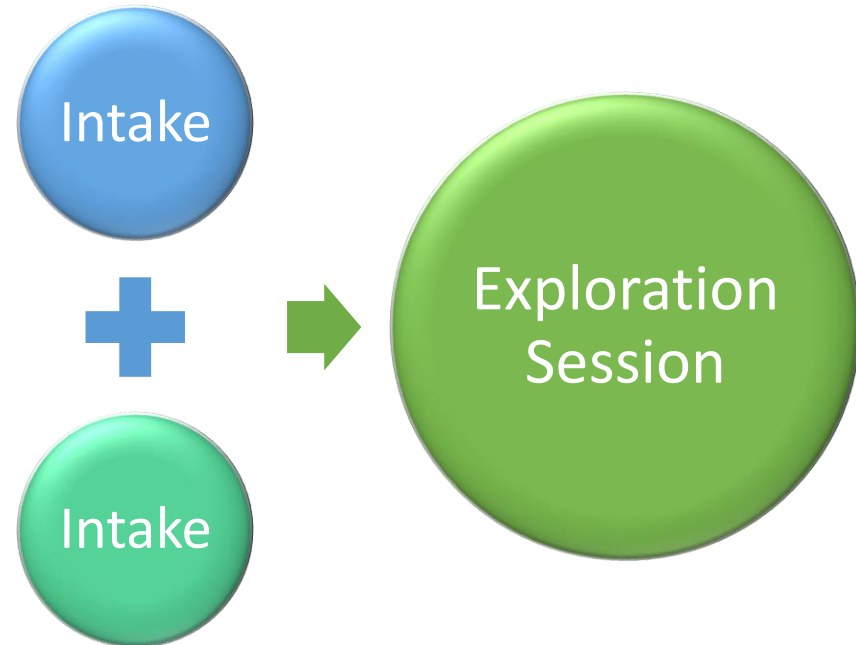
Intake allows your Counsellor / mediator to understand the nature of your relationship and to perform an ethical duty of care with each party. This usually only takes an hour and can be done face to face or over the phone.

What happens when we are still together and looking for a way forward?

This will normally be done together in the same room with your counsellor / mediator or if needed over zoom. It is important to note that your Counsellor / mediator is neutral and provides an equal balance of power to each party.

Your mediator will:

- Help to uncover blocks in moving forward
- Support each of you to explore options on moving forward
- Help to problem solve options in moving forward
- Reality test options in moving forward
- Help with referrals and other support systems
- See each of you through to your next steps



We are very close to agreement, but there are some niggles

What is Intake?

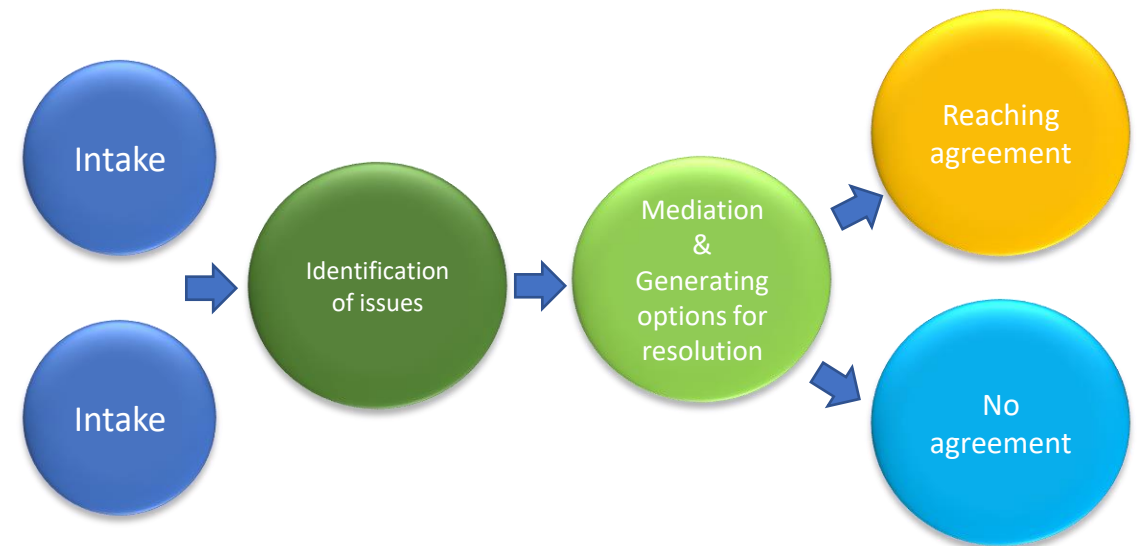
Intake allows your mediator to understand the nature of your issues for mediation and to perform an ethical duty of care with each party. This usually only takes an hour and can be done face to face or over the phone.

What happens if there are some niggles or uncertainties?

This will normally be done together in the same room with your mediator or if needed over zoom or via shuttle, which means you will not be in the same room or zoom meeting together.

Your mediator will:

- Help identify the outstanding issues
- Get clarity on options for resolution
- Reality check each party on their perspective
- Ensure each party is ready to resolve the issue – this may mean shorter sessions over a longer period of time.
- Support each party to have input into their resolution



We are not sure what the issues are

What is Intake?

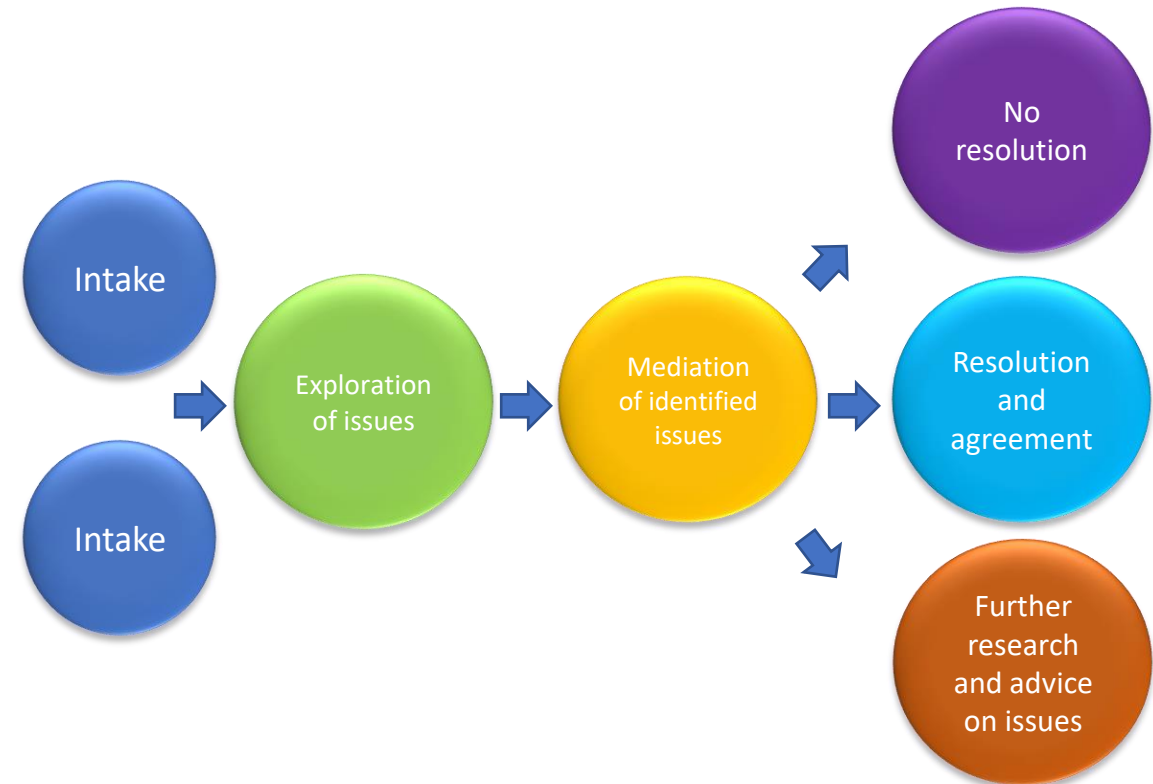
Intake allows your mediator to understand the nature of your issues for mediation and to perform an ethical duty of care with each party. This usually only takes an hour and can be done face to face or over the phone.

What happens if we are not sure what the issues are?

Intake with each party will usually go a long way to identifying the issues.

Your mediator will:

- Bring you together in a half day or 2 hour session
- Support each of you to openly identify your issues together
- Help structure a pathway forward to resolve the identified issues. This could be a formal mediation session to resolve the issues, further counselling, or other professional services to support the resolution of your issues.



We are in high conflict

What is high conflict?

High conflict is where parties may be triggered by each other, unable to communicate, or any communications which do happen, result in escalated conflict.

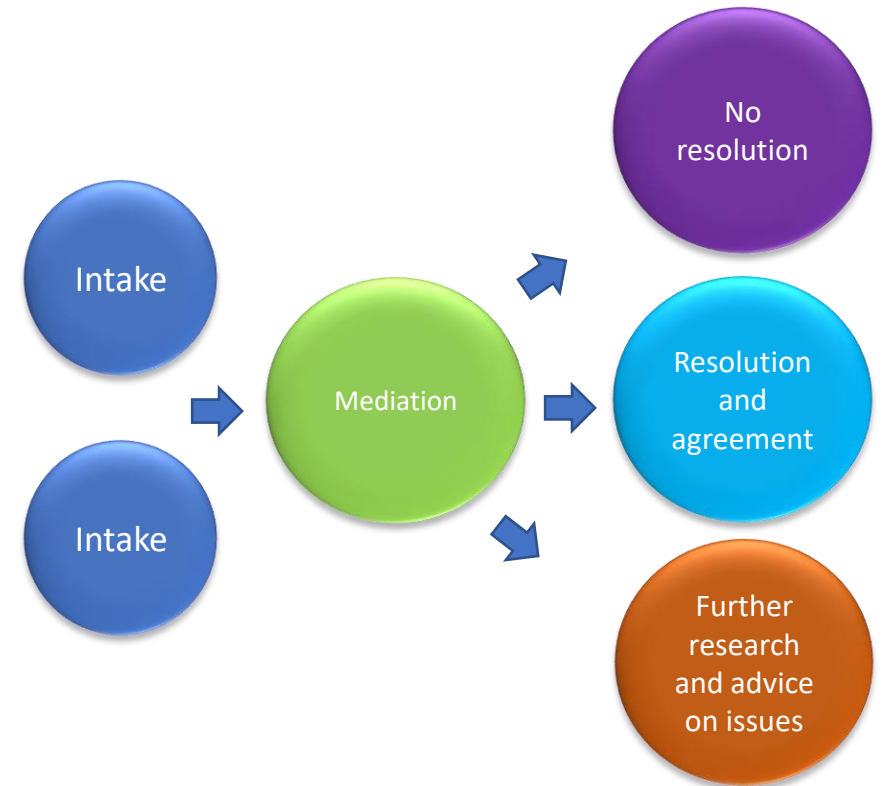
High conflict may also involve intervention orders, which prevent parties from being in communication or being in the same vicinity as each other.

What happens if we are in high conflict?

Intake with each party will identify the issues in conflict, as well as prepare your mediation for safety and minimise stress.

Your mediator will:

- Identify the style of mediation required. This could be shuttle mediation, where you do not see or hear the other party. You will not be in the same room or sometimes, even the same building together. Other times, it may be via zoom or phone.
- Structure a mediation, which focuses on the issues to resolve
- Allow breaks for each party to contact support people, lawyers or other necessary contacts.
- Each party may have a support person with them during this time

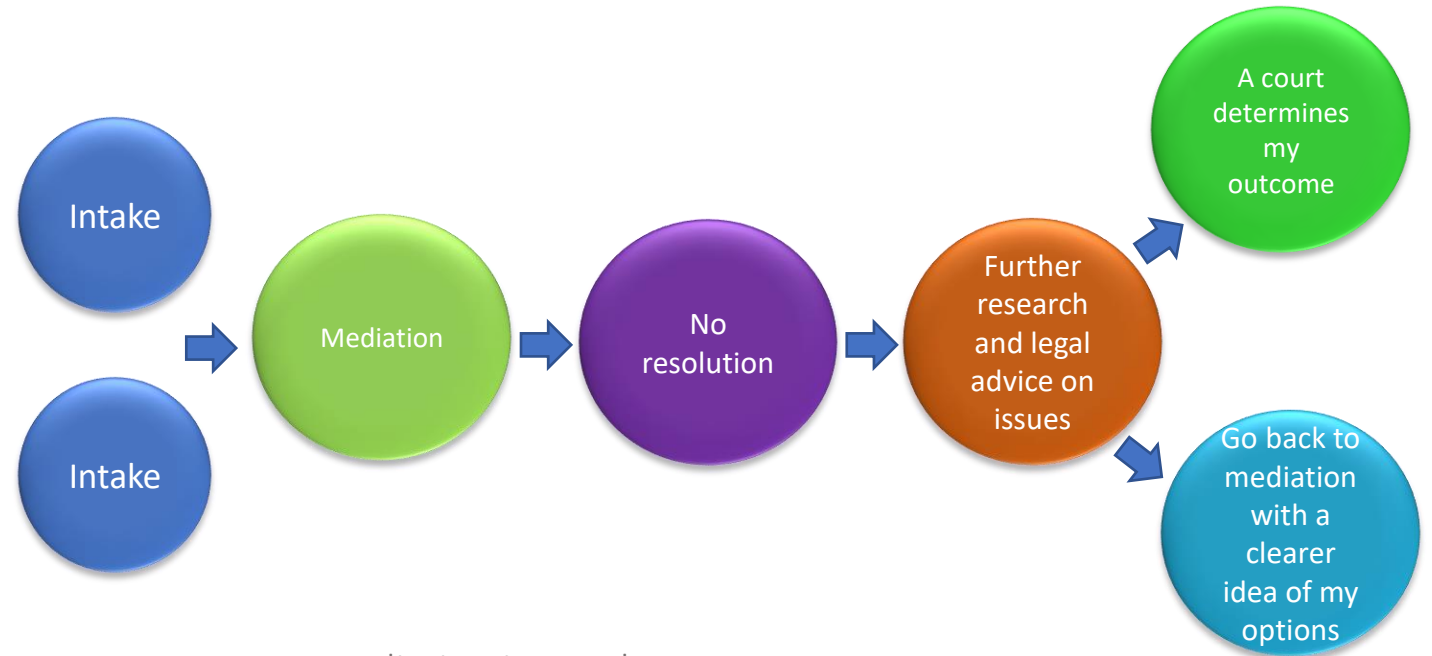


What happens if we don't reach a resolution?

What happens if we can't resolve our issues?

If resolution through mediation is not reached, there are some options moving forward.

- Some people are determined to “have their day in court”. This mindset can reduce the ability to mediate effectively and result in years of legal costs and ongoing stress. Many people don't realise that eventually, they will most likely be turned back to mediation by the judge.
- If a resolution is not reached, it may be because further research, advice, child reports or other factors need to be investigated.
- Sometimes resolution is not reached because one or both parties are not emotionally or mentally ready to move on.



- In some cases, mediation is not the appropriate method to reach resolution. Your mediator will issue a section 60i certificate reflecting this. This will then allow you to apply to the federal family circuit court to have your case heard by a judge.

The door to mediation is always open

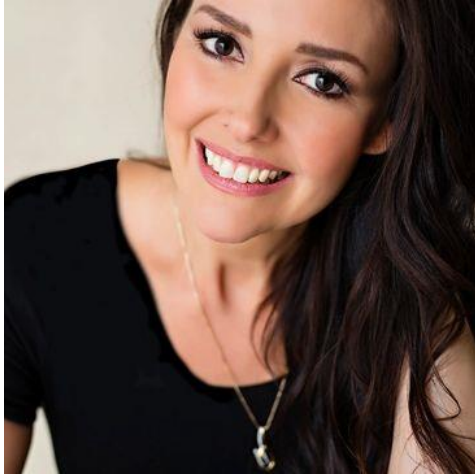
The door to mediation is always open

- Sometimes people have a successful mediation, but over time things change and they feel they would be best supported in coming back to mediation to make agreement changes and help progress changes more smoothly.
- Sometimes mediation is not successful the first time around. Sometimes people just need time and space or perhaps more information and come back to mediation when they feel more prepared.
- Sometimes people are a long way into a legal battle and choose mediation again to try and resolve some if not all, of their issues.



- The mediation process can take many different forms and styles. It doesn't always have to be resolved in a day. A good mediator will support each party by planning a mediation which is most suitable for your specific needs.

Rebecca and Damian Bourke



Rebecca is a counsellor and a registered Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner with the Department of the Federal Attorney-General, pursuant to the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth), and is a nationally accredited mediator.

With over 15 years experience in Counselling, Change Management and Mediation, Rebecca Bourke has worked with thousands of people just like you, through the big changes in their life.

Rebecca's experience across multidisciplinary fields allows her to approach difficult conversations in a calm, safe and effective manner. As a neutral professional, Rebecca understands how important it is to reach a realistic, sustainable outcome which is cost effective.



Damian Bourke, LL.B, MprojMgt, GradDipPM, GDLP Admitted to Supreme Court of Queensland

Damian is a registered Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner with the Department of the Federal Attorney-General, pursuant to the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth), and is a nationally accredited mediator.

With over 20 years' experience in the property space, Damian brings a wealth of experience in Property & Financial Dispute Resolution.

Damian has a calm, firm, practical and focused approach to mediation. Damian ensures equality of time and effort to each party and supports people to feel safe and secure in their mediation.

Thank you



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