

Separating? Which Route Suits You?

If you are separating from your spouse or partner or you are planning to do so it is important to decide which way to go when it comes to the legal process

The 5 Basic Options are :

Kitchen Table Discussions

Both of you are able to discuss and reach decisions on all or most issues relating to any children, money and/or property between yourselves “round the kitchen table “. You will only need legal help for the fine tuning of the agreement and putting such an agreement into a format which will be legally binding.

Mediation

You both agree to appoint an independent and impartial mediator to help facilitate your face to face discussions. These will cover all options regarding children and finances in order to reach an agreement. Mediation can help you even if you have started court proceedings.

Collaborative Process

You each appoint a family lawyer who is collaboratively trained. All 4 of you conduct negotiations face to face, working together as a problem solving team in order to achieve a settlement which is best for the family without going to court.

Half way house

You each instruct a family lawyer who will deal with your case in a traditional way by post or telephone to negotiate on your behalf . This is not dependent on any meetings taking place and you would avoid contact with your spouse or partner if you so wished. Any agreement would need to be put in a legal format.

Court Proceedings

Probably the most well known as it has been going for centuries in different forms. Either or both of you apply to the court to deal with the children and or financial issues. This places you within the court timetable and the outcome will be decided by a judge if you and your spouse/ partner fail to agree.

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