

Guidance for Reporting Work under the Family Mediation Contract

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Version History

Version:	Date	Reason	
1	1 st April 2013	nitial release	
2	8 th July 2014	Jpdate of reporting address	
3	November 2014	To reflect changes to the Civil Legal Aid (Financial Resources and Payment for Services) Regulations 2013	

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1. Overview

This guidance sets out how to report Family Mediation claims. It should be read in conjunction with the 2010 Standard Civil Contract standard terms and conditions, Family Mediation Specification and the relevant guidance under the Legal Aid Sentencing & Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.

Changes have been made to the Civil Legal Aid (Financial Resources and Payment for Services) Regulations 2013 to exempt financially ineligible parties from the financial means test in respect of the first mediation session where the other party is financially eligible for legal aid and the first mediation session after the MIAM takes place on/after **3 November 2014**.

In these circumstances the LAA will pay half a single mediation session fee in relation to the party who would not otherwise be financially eligible for legal aid. This will be in addition to the relevant fee payable in respect of the financially eligible party. For all subsequent mediation sessions following the first session legal aid will only be available for the party financially eligible for legal aid. Agreed Proposal fees can only be claimed in relation to financially eligible parties.

There are no changes to the way mediation cases are reported, and providers should continue to report the mediation as a single Matter regardless of the fee payable in respect of each party.

2. Family Mediation Reporting Forms

The two forms for reporting work under the Family Mediation Contract are called the **Mediation Consolidated Work Report Form** and **Mediation Work Start Form**.

The **Mediation Consolidated Work Report Form** will require that you use certain codes when completing the form. It is important that you complete these codes correctly as they have a direct impact on the calculations of the value of your reported work. Ongoing mediations should not be reported monthly – only when they are completed.

When to complete the forms and how to submit them

The Mediation Consolidated Work Report Form and Mediation Work Start Form must be completed and returned by DX or post on a monthly basis to the specified Regional Office of the Legal Aid Agency within 10 days after the end of each month, regardless of the point in the month the matter started and / or was closed. Faxes will not be accepted.

For example, a matter started on 1 April must be reported on the Mediation Work Start Form you send in May, as must a matter started on 30 April. Similarly, assessment meetings held and / or mediations completed on one of the days in April should be reported on the Mediation Consolidated Work Report Form that is returned in May.

Any completed work must be reported within three months of completion. Please note that any failure to do this may result in payments being reduced or declined. Payment depends on the timely return of these forms. Failure to comply with these requirements will lead to a severe delay or a downward amendment in your monthly payment.

All providers must send the two forms each month to the following address:

Legal Aid Agency – Bristol Office 33-35 Queen Square Bristol BS1 4LU or DX 7852 - Bristol 1 All fields are mandatory – with the following exemptions/ rules:

- Where a client does not wish to provide information related to disability please mark the form with the letter "U".
- Where there are no disbursement costs these fields must be completed as either 00:00 or a dash in the box.
- If there has not been any work undertaken in a category fill in a "nil return".

Forms will be rejected where mandatory fields are not completed, and may cause a delay of payment. Please write legibly and use capital letters where appropriate, as this will reduce possibilities of any inputting errors.

If no work has started in a particular month then a nil return must be submitted. If no work is completed or closed within a particular month, then again, a nil return must be submitted. To make a nil return you must complete your Contract Number, Supplier Name, and Month details on both forms and write "NIL RETURN"

You do not need to complete all the five rows on the **Mediation Consolidated Work Report Forms** before sending it in. Complete as many sheets as required but remember to complete the lines in the upper right corner indicating how many pages in total there are in a batch.

On the **Mediation Work Start Form** you should record the following data:

- Number of Assessment Meetings completed in the relevant month
- Number of Mediations started in the relevant month

On the Mediation Consolidated Work Report Form you should record the following data:

- The details of Assessment meetings completed in the relevant month.
- The details of Mediation files being declared as closed in the relevant month.

Ongoing mediations should not be reported on the Mediation Consolidated Work Report Form. They must only be reported when the mediation is completed.

Note: that as a double check the number of assessment meetings reported on the Mediation Work Start Form must be equal to the number of assessment meetings entries on the Mediation Consolidated Work Report Form.

Any queries regarding your payments or returns should be addressed to your designated Contract Manager in the appropriate LAA Regional Office.

2. How to Complete the Family Mediation Work Start Form



Table of Work Start Fields

Field	Guidance
Provider Contract Number	This refers to your contract number under which you receive payment for your contract work. You will find the number on your contract award and schedule.
Supplier Name	Please enter your organisation's full name in this field.
Month	This must be completed in the format MMM/20YY; for example December 2015 should be recorded as DEC/2015.
	Please fill in the month in which the work was started – not the month in which you are reporting it.
Assessment Meeting(s) – Quantity	Report the number of Assessment Meetings undertaken in each of the three categories. Only report work undertaken between the first day of the month and up to and including the last day. If there were no Assessment Meetings for that particular month, report nil.
	Note: You should count each individual client attending an "Assessment Meeting – Separate". Where clients elect to attend separate Assessment Meetings and these are held in two different months, then one meeting should be recorded in respect of each month in which the meeting is held. When a couple attends "Assessment Meeting – Together", the count should be by couple (and not by the individual client).
Mediation Type – Number of case starts	You must only record the number of mediations started in each of the six categories of work. Report a nil in those mediation categories where there have been no matter starts.
	Mediation cases must be recorded as a single case start regardless of the fact there are two parties. Separate starts must not be reported in respect of each party.
	Do not include ongoing matters, which have been reported as started in an earlier month.

Field	Guidance
Administration section at the bottom of the form	Please print your name, sign and add a contact telephone number in case the regional processing centre has any queries related to your filling in of the form. These details will help us to deal more quickly with your monthly return in situations where errors or misunderstandings occur. Finally, provide the date in the following format: DD/MM/20YY. For example, 10 July 2015 should be recorded as 10/07/2015.

3. How to Complete the Mediation Consolidated Work Report Form

Work type refers to the various types of assessment meetings and mediations.

Mediation cases should always be recorded separately to the Assessment Meetings even if the mediation ends in the same month that the Assessment Meeting takes place. You may therefore have to make two separate entries on the same form in one month in respect of the same matter.

Assessment Meeting Alone should only be used when one party attends and you are sure the other party will not attend. Do not use this code when both parties attend separately.

Assessment Meetings should be recorded as having been completed in the same month that they take place. Assessment Meetings where each client has been seen separately (Assessment Meeting - Separate) must be recorded on two separately numbered lines.

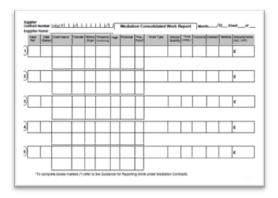
Details of mediation cases should only be recorded on this form in the month in which the case is completed i.e. when the outcome of the case is clear. This would include, but is not limited to, the following circumstances:

- The mediation has broken down after a single session;
- The mediation has broken down after several sessions ("multi sessions");
- The parties have reached an understanding but do not want this produced as a formal agreement;
- A formal agreement has been produced on all the issues in dispute;
- A formal agreement has been produced on some of the issues in dispute.

Mediations that have broken down should only be reported when either of the two following conditions are met:

- If you are **sure** (e.g. clients indicate that they do not wish to continue) that the parties will not continue with the mediation;
- If you are **reasonably sure** (e.g. consider it likely) that the parties will not continue with the mediation **and** three months have elapsed since the Single Session, or the last session.

Breakdown of the Fields on the Form



Field	Guidance
Provider Contract Number	This refers to your contract number under which you receive payment for your contract work. You will find the number on your contract award and schedule.
Supplier Name	Please enter your organisation's full name in this field.
Month	This must be completed in the format MMM/20YY; for example October 2015 should be recorded as OCT/2015. Please fill in the month when the work was closed – not the month in which you are reporting it
Sheet Number	Complete as many sheets as required but complete the boxes stating how many pages in total there are in a batch.
Case Reference	Case reference refers to your organisation's systematic naming of client files. Each matter must have a unique reference number/ID. This reference is essential for effective auditing of contracts. Please ensure that this reference enables the file to be retrieved if it is requested at an audit.
	If an Assessment Meeting/s has led to a mediation then the mediation must be allocated the same case reference number as the Assessment Meeting/s. You may, however, assign a single running number or letter at the beginning or the end of the case reference number/ID to denote the different stages of the matter.
	An example of a case reference meeting these criteria are: An assessment meeting, which later progresses on to mediation, is given the reference OLP/0903D/1, while the mediation is given the reference number OLP/0903D/2.
	One case reference will apply to both clients and will apply to all work done in connection with the case.
	Where Direct Consultation with Children is used please add the code DCC on the end of the reference number for the mediation. This will allow the LAA to identify cases where direct consultation is used and monitor the profile and outcomes achieved.
Date Started	If the matter is an assessment meeting, report the date when the meeting was held. If the matter is mediation, use the date of the first mediation session. The date must be recorded in the format: DD/MM/YYYY e.g. 5th Oct 2015 should be recorded 05/10/2015.

Field	Guidance		
Client Name	Client initial and surname(s) must be provided. of this field is to facilitate retrieval of specific file		
	Details for both clients must be recorded. If only one client is seen then only the details for that client need be recorded.		
Equal Opportunities Monitoring: Gender, Disability and Ethnic Origin	Completion of the ethnic origin and disa voluntary. However, where the client is willing information it will greatly assist us in researching access to LAA funded services commitment to promote equal opportunities, Equality Scheme. This information will be strictest confidence and will be used for statis and research.	to provide this monitoring and in line with our set out in our treated in the	
	Complete the gender field with the following co table):	des (see	
	GenderCodeFemaleFMaleM		
	Complete the disability field with the following of table). Note where a client does not wish to proinformation please mark the column with the le	vide this	
	Disability Code Yes Y]	
	No N		
	The Commission for Racial Equality recommenare as follows.	nded categories	
	Please complete the ethnicity field with the follo (see table):	owing codes	
	Ethnic Origin	Code	
	Other	00	
	White British	01	
	White Irish	02	
	Black or Black British African	03	
	Black or Black British Caribbean	04	
	Black or Black British Other	05	

Ethnic Origin	Code
Other	00
White British	01
White Irish	02
Black or Black British African	03
Black or Black British Caribbean	04
Black or Black British Other	05
Asian or Asian British Indian	06
Asian or Asian British Pakistani	07
Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	80
Chinese	09
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	10
Mixed White and Black African	11
Mixed White and Asian	12
Mixed Other	13
White Other	14
Asian or Asian British other	15
Gypsy/Traveller	16
Unknown	99

Field	Guidance			
Age	Client age National S	Client age will be recorded in bands (based on the Of National Statistics' Labour Force Survey). Complete tield with the following codes (see table):		
		Age Range	Code	
		0-16	Α	
		17-24	В	
		25-34	С	
		35-49	D	
		50-64	Е	
		65+	F	
This field must be completed. It is import full, accurate postcode is entered here. one or two letters, then one or two numbers and two letters, AB32 7PY.		ed here. Th two number d two letter	is will normally be rs, followed by a rs; for example, B25	
	a telephor	t does not know their ne postcode enquiry not enter fictitious co	service c	
	postcode (the client genuinely perhaps because ne s notified), please rec	ew propertie	
Legally Aided	'eligible' i an assess who can requireme exempt for Regulation and Pay	purposes of this grean any party for sment of financial be demonstrated ents. For the avoidarom the financial n 5 of the Civil Legment for Service must not be record	whom you eligibility as meet ance of do eligibility gal Aid (Fires) Regul	for legal aid and ling the eligibility bubt, those parties test by virtue of nancial Resources lations 2013 (as
		the legally aided field table) in relation to		
		Yes No	1 0	
	for legal ai for both cli client is eli	sment Meetings, whe d for family mediation ents can be recorded gible then these case Aid Agency as these	n, these As d and claim es should n	sessment Meetings ed. Where neither ot be reported to
	of the asse after the a as ineligib	sment Meetings a pagessment or they are assessment meeting ble for the purpose at Meeting.	not. If a clied then they	ent becomes eligible should be recorded

Field	Guidanco		
Work Type	Work type should be recorded in categories using short codes:	one of the following	
	Work Type	Short Code	
	Assessment Meeting –	AssM – Tog.	
	Together Assessment Meeting – Alone	AssM - Alone	
	Assessment Meeting – Separate	AssM – Sep.	
	Child Only Sole	Child Sole	
	Child Only Co	Child Co	
	Property & Finance Sole	P & F Sole	
	Property & Finance Co	P & F Co	
	All Issues Sole	AIM Sole	
	All Issues Co	AIM Co	
	Assessment Meetings should always be recorded separately to the Mediation cases even if the mediation ends in the same month that the Assessment Meeting take place.		
	The 'Assessment Meetings – Separate' work type must be recorded on separate lines – one for each client.		
	If an All Issues Mediation is started but agreement is only reached on e.g. Children issues, the Work Type should still b recorded as an All Issues Mediation.		
	If a mediation is started (and repo Only Sole mediation and subsequ sole issues are dealt with in media matter should be reported as an A when completed.	ently Property & Finance ation (or vice versa), the	
Session Quantity	Record the number of sessions spent on mediation. Do not count Assessment Meeting(s) and/or the drafting of the Agreed Proposal as sessions. When the matter entered is an Assessment Meeting fill in a dash (-).		

Field Guidance Record the total time in minutes spent on the case. Include Time (minutes) the following elements: time taken in the sessions, preparing and reviewing sessions (this will be the actual time taken rather than the combined time of the mediators when the co-mediation model is used) time spent on drafting documents including the session notes and agreed proposals where applicable. time spent on correspondence by mediator (telephone/email/letter) which progresses the case Do not include the time spent on the Assessment Meeting/s general administration e.g. setting up the appointments, other telephone contact, arranging meeting room etc. travel time We do acknowledge that time is spent on administration and there are elements allocated in the set rates in the contract. However, the purpose of the time recording is for us to get an understanding of time used by mediators. If your organisation currently records time in units rather than minutes, please convert units to minutes i.e. where 1 unit = 6 minutes, the number of units multiplied by 6. Use the following codes when recording the outcome of a Outcome/Agreed case: **Proposals** Outcome Code Mediation agreement (i.e. Α successful) but no agreed proposal was written up Mediation broken down -В i.e. no agreed proposal Mediation successful - i.e. S an agreed proposal(s) was reached All Issues Mediation and an agreed proposal was reached only on Children issues. All Issues Mediation and an agreed proposal was reached only on Property & Finance issues. When the matter entered is an assessment meeting fill in a dash (-). We do acknowledge that some mediations may break down just after an agreed proposal has been written up. These should still be recorded as S (or C or P). When an agreed proposal is written up this should be understood as the parties have reached agreement on the majority of issues in dispute. "Agreement to disagree" is thus never classified an agreement under this contract.

P'	O. Hanna		
Field	Guidance When the meeting(s) with clier	nts are conducted at a location	
Outreach	at which your service has auth		
	you must fill in a number, whic		
	meeting(s) are taking place at your main office you		
	in 00 (zero).		
	The number must be two digit		
	upwards (i.e. 02, 03 etc.). For in Norwich and you have one of		
	and one in Cromer. Then main		
	Attleborough number 01 and C		
	-		
		number refers to which location	
	must be kept easily available. For a definition of Outreach, pl	ease see the Contract	
	Specification.	oddo doo ino doniiadi	
	·		
Referral Use the following two digit codes when recording the of referral:		es when recording the source	
	Referral Source	Code	
	Referral from solicitor	02	
	Referral from court	03	
	Referral from CAB	04	
	Referral from other advice	05	
	agency or telephone helpline		
	Referral from Relate or	06	
	other relationship		
	counselling		
	Referral from GP/NHS	07	
	Clients self Referred	08	
	Other	09	
	Unknown	10	
	Source of referral must be completed for both assessment		
	meetings and mediations.		
	Describber (at 1		
Dichurcoments (C)	Record the total amount of disl		
Disbursements (£)	as disbursements.	ion sets out what you can claim	
	3.555.5555.		
	Record the amount in the form		
	registered for VAT and the disl		
figure should include VAT. If no disbursem		o disbursements were incurred,	
	record 00:00 or a dash (-).		
	l .		

4. How to Complete the CW5 Help with Family Mediation Form

	Protect - Personal Information	CW
Legal Aid Agency	lp with Family Me	ediation
Help with Family Mediation	ediator, must be held on file in order to . If the enhanced fee for preparation of ement/Memorandum of Understanding on the file.	a consent order is claimed a
Equal Opportunitie	es Monitoring ir client would describe themselves as beir	ng:
Ethnicity		
White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British
(a) British	(a) White and Black Caribbean	(a) Indian
(b) Irish	(b) White and Black African	(b) Pakistani
(c) White Other	(c) White and Asian	(c) Bangladeshi
Black or Black British	(d) Mixed Other	(d) Asian Other
(a) Black Caribbean	Chinese	Other
(b) Black African	Gypsy/Traveller	Prefer not to say
(c) Black Other	- Oypayi Havener	- Treier not to say
_ (-)		
Disability		
long-term adverse effect on a pe	isability as: a physical or mental impairmer ersons ability to carry out normal day-to-da	
Not Considered Disabled	□ .	
	erself to have a disability please select the	most appropriate definition.
Definitions:		
Mental health condition	Blind	
Learning disability/difficulty	 Long-standing physical 	illness or health
Mobility impairment	condition	
Deaf	Other	
Hearing impaired	Unknown	
Visually impaired	Prefer not to say	
Completion of this section is we purely for statistical monitoring	oluntary. This will be treated in the strictes and research.	st confidence and will be used
Your client's detai	ls	
Title: Initials: Suma	ame:	
First name:	Surname at birth:	
Date of birth: / /	National Insurance no:	
	Female Prefe	er not to say
Sex: Male Marital status: Single	Married/Cohabiting Divor	
Marital status: Single Separate	ed Civil Partner Wido	
Marital status: Single Separate		
Marital status: Single Separate	ed Civil Partner Wido	

		service to complete		
	above client is currently pa months with the first media			
Type of mediation	n:			
		rty & Finance or All Issue	•	
	Mediator			
_	ised Mediator(s):			
Name of Service				
Mediation Accor	ınt Number:			
Address of Serv				
			Postcode:	
Financial I	Eligibility (legal adv	visor to complete)		
1. The client h	ave a partner whose mear	ns are to be aggregated:		
□Yes	Please provide details of	both client's and partne	r's means.	
□ No	Please provide details of	client's means only.		
2. Case categ	ory:			
3. The case is	about ownership or posse	ssion of assets and / or	financial provisio	n:
Yes	Go to question 5.			
□ No	Go directly to Part B Cap	oital.		
4. The client's	assets (held in sole name	or jointly held) have bee	n claimed by the	opponent:
	Please complete Part A			
	Go directly to Part B Cap			
The subject m the opponent; risk if the judg provision whice the opponent	atter of dispute disregard of it does not apply to assets ement goes against the cli h may be taken account in has not specifically claimed must be included in Part B	only applies to assets that that the opponent has nent or to assets in a mati some way in the proceed. All assets that have n	ot claimed but a rimonial case/cas iding or settleme	re at general se for financia nt but which
Part A: Ca	pital - Subject m	atter of dispute		
	y property, assets or posselaim to in this case:	essions that the opponer	nt	
	Property:		Main home	
	Current market valu		£	
	Outstanding Mortga	gersecured loan	£	
2. In property by	eld in joint names with the	opponent?	Yes	No

The CW5 form has been created to provide evidence to a contracted Family legal aid provider that the client concerned has participated in mediation and is potentially eligible for Help with Family Mediation. The Mediation Service should complete the Equal Opportunities section and client details section on page 1 and the mediation details section on the top of page 2. The remainder of the document is for the legal advisor to complete.

5. A Check List of Contract Rules for Completing Mediation Submission

Please use the following examples to ensure you comply fully with our reporting requirements under the **Mediation Consolidated Work Report Form**. It is very important that you comply with these as they ensure the right calculation for the value of your work. If any of the details you send to us are wrong the reconciliation of your contract schedule and payments may be incorrect.

Check 1:

If you record the work type as an Assessment Meeting Alone (AssM - Alone), you need to ensure that the client is registered as being Legally Aided.

Check 2:

If couples are referred to an Assessment Meeting then at least one of the clients needs to be legally aided in order to be able to claim.

Check 3:

If a couple attend an Assessment Meeting Separate (AssM – Sep.) and are attending because one of the clients has been referred by a solicitor, then you need to complete the Referral box with 02 for both records – not just for the client who was referred. (See also "Check 2" above and "Check 5" below)

Check 4:

If you record one of the six types of Mediations (Child Sole, Child Co, P & F Sole, P & F Co, AIM Sole or AIM Co) as work type, you must also ensure that you complete the Legally Aided field with a 1 (one) for at least one of the clients.

A record with mediation where the Legally Aided field is empty for both clients is incorrect and will generate a £0 value.

Check 5:

Couples who attend Assessment Meeting Separate (AssM – Sep.) must be recorded on two separate lines.

Records with AssM – Sep. where both clients appear on the same line in the Mediation Consolidated Work Report Form are incorrect and will only generate the value of one meeting instead of two (i.e with current values = £87 instead of £87 + £87).

Check 6:

When couples have either finished an AssM – Tog, or a Mediation (Child Sole, Child Co, P & F Sole, P & F Co, AIM Sole or AIM Co) then the name and the details of gender, disability, ethnicity, age and post code must be completed for both clients and not only for one. Records where the details of the second client are missing are incorrect, and may in certain instances only generate half the value of the work reported.

Check 7:

Always double check the accuracy of data - especially codes used for Work-Type, Legally Aided, Session Quantity, Outcome, and Referral - before sending your returns to the processing centre.