

**Notice of [intention to proceed with] a financial application to which the standard procedure applies**

To be completed by the Applicant	
The Family Court sitting at	Case No.
Help with Fees – Ref no. (if applicable) H W F - <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	

This form should be completed if you are applying for financial provision (a financial order or other financial remedy) **except** an application:

- for a periodical payments order **only**, under section 23 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, paragraph 2 of Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 or paragraphs 1 or 2 of Schedule 1 to the Children Act 1989 – please complete Form A1.
- to vary or to discharge a periodical payments order **only** – please complete Form A1.
- for financial provision under Part 1 of the Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates’ Courts Act 1978 or Schedule 6 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 – please complete Form A1.
- after an overseas divorce etc (Form D50F) or for neglect or failure to maintain a party or child (Form D50C) or for alteration of a maintenance agreement during the lifetime of the parties (Form D50H)

Full name of applicant

Full name of respondent(s)

HMCTS USE ONLY



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## Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Provisions in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 have the effect of preventing an individual accused of abuse from questioning in person a party or witness in the case who is the victim of the abuse, and also prevents a victim of abuse from questioning in person the accused individual in specified circumstances.

If the court directs that the proceedings be listed for a hearing where oral evidence may be given, form EX740 (victim of abuse) or form EX741 (person making the abuse accusation) 'Application and information needed by the court to consider whether to prevent (prohibit) questioning (cross-examination) in person' may need to be completed so that the court can consider whether questioning in person should be prevented. The court will send the appropriate form with the court order.

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### Nature of application

This application is for financial provision, including provision to be made to or for the benefit of the child(ren):

- in connection with matrimonial or civil partnership proceedings (divorce, dissolution etc), if so:

Has the court granted you a decree nisi/conditional order?

- Yes, attach a copy to this form  
 No

Has the court granted you a decree absolute/final order?

- Yes, attach a copy to this form  
 No

**or**

- under paragraphs 1 or 2 of Schedule 1 to the Children Act 1989

tick the statement that applies

and

tick one or more of the following orders

The applicant intends:

- to apply** to the Court for  an order for maintenance pending suit/outcome of proceedings

**to apply** to the Court for

*or*

**to proceed with** the application in the

divorce

dissolution

nullity

annulment

(judicial) separation

application for

*or*

**to apply to vary**

an order for maintenance pending suit/outcome of proceedings

a lump sum order

a property adjustment order

a settlement or a transfer of property for the benefit of the child(ren)

a periodical payments order **together with** other financial provision

a pension sharing order

a pension compensation sharing order

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**to apply to discharge** a periodical payments order **and** to substitute for it one or more orders opposite

a lump sum order

a property adjustment order

a pension sharing order

a pension compensation sharing order

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### **Additional information required**

Are you applying for an order by consent in terms of written agreement (a consent order)?

**Yes, attach the draft order to this form**

**No**

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## 1. Further details of the financial application

**If your application includes an application for a property adjustment order in relation to land, please give the following details, if applicable**

Address(es) of the property or properties

Name(s) and address(es) of any mortgagee(s)

**If an application is made for any periodical payments or secured periodical payments for children, please complete this section.**

- there is a written agreement made before 5 April 1993 about maintenance for the benefit of children
- there is a written agreement made on or after 5 April 1993 about maintenance for the benefit of children
- there is no agreement, but the applicant is applying for payments:
  - for a stepchild or stepchildren
  - in addition to child support maintenance already paid under a Child Support Agency assessment
  - to meet expenses arising from a child's disability
  - to meet expenses incurred by a child in being educated or training for work
  - when either the child **or** the person with care of the child or the absent parent of the child is not habitually resident in the United Kingdom

**If none of the above applies, the court may not have jurisdiction to hear the application for periodical payments.**

Has the Child Support Agency made any calculation of maintenance in respect of the child(ren)

Yes     No

If Yes, state briefly your reasons for making this application to the court including any reasons why the Child Support Agency is no longer dealing with your claim or any reasons why you need additional maintenance to top up payments made through the Child Support Agency:

If your application includes an application in relation to one or more children, please complete the tables below for each child, continuing on additional sheets if necessary

Name of child 1	<input type="text"/>
Date of birth	<input type="text" value="DD/MM/YYYY"/>
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Relationship to Applicant	<input type="text"/>
Relationship to Respondent	<input type="text"/>
Country of residence (if not England or Wales)	<input type="text"/>

Name of child 2

Date of birth

/ / 

Gender

 Male  Female

Relationship to  
Applicant

Relationship to  
Respondent

Country of residence (if  
not England or Wales)

## Service details

- I am not represented by a solicitor in these proceedings  
(please give your address in the boxes below)
- I am not represented by a solicitor in these proceedings but am  
receiving advice from a solicitor (please give your address in the  
boxes below)
- I am represented by a solicitor in these proceedings, who has  
signed Section 5, and all documents for my attention should be  
sent to my solicitor whose details are as follows:

## Solicitor's details

Name of solicitor

Name of firm

## Address to which all documents should be sent for service

*(if you have ticked the third box above,  
this must be your solicitor's address)*

Building and street

Second line of address

Town or city

County (optional)

Country (optional)

**If you do not wish your address to be made known to the respondent, leave the address details blank and complete **Confidential contact details form C8**. Please ensure that any documents submitted with this form or at a later date, **do not** disclose the confidential contact details you wish to withhold.**

Postcode

Phone number

Fax number

DX number

Your reference

Solicitor's fee account number

Email – only provide an email address if you consent to us contacting you via email about this application

**Respondent's address for service -**

This should be either

- the respondent's solicitor's address, if a solicitor has been appointed and you know the details, **or**
- the respondent's own address for service

**Respondent solicitor's details**

If they have appointed a solicitor, please give their details here

Respondent solicitor's name (if applicable)

Respondent solicitor's firm (if applicable)

**Address for service (respondent's own, or respondent's solicitor's, if applicable)**

Building and street

Second line of address

Town or city

County (optional)

Country (optional)

Postcode

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## 2. Requirement to attend a Mediation, Information and Assessment Meeting (MIAM)

Before making an application for a financial order you must first attend a Mediation, Information and Assessment Meeting (MIAM). At the MIAM an authorised family mediator will consider with you (and the other party if present) whether family mediation, or another form of non-court dispute resolution, would be a more appropriate alternative to court. The mediator will also be able to sign post you to other help and support services.

You **must** have attended a MIAM before making this application **unless** the requirement to attend a MIAM does not apply because the financial order you are applying for:

- is for a consent order; **or**
- you are exempt from the requirement to attend a MIAM.  
(Some exemptions you can claim for yourself, others must be certified by an authorised family mediator).

In special circumstances such as where domestic violence is involved - you may not need to attend a MIAM. However, you will be asked to provide the judge with evidence (such as a police report to prove domestic violence has taken place) and should bring it to the first hearing.

All applicants must complete sections 1 and 2 and complete and sign section 5 of this form. **In addition**, you must tick one of the boxes below and ensure that you, your legal adviser or a family mediator completes and signs the relevant section(s) of this form as shown.

- 2a.** Are you claiming exemption from the requirement to attend a MIAM?       Yes     No    **If Yes, complete section 3.**  
**If No, please answer question 2b.**

**2b.** Has a family mediator informed you that a mediator's exemption applies, and you do not need to attend a MIAM?  Yes  No

**If Yes, you must ensure that the family mediator completes and signs section 4a.**

**If No, please answer question 2c.**

**2c.** Have you attended a MIAM?  Yes  No

**If Yes, you must ensure that the family mediator completes and signs section 4b.**

**If No, you cannot make this application.**

### 3. Applicant claims exemption(s) from attendance at a Mediation, Information and Assessment Meeting (MIAM)

**(To be completed by the person intending to make a court application or their legal representative)**

The applicant has not attended a MIAM because the following MIAM exemption(s) applies:

- Domestic violence (you must complete **section 3a**)
- Urgency (you must complete **section 3b**)
- Previous MIAM attendance or previous MIAM exemption (you must complete **section 3c**)
- Other (you must complete **section 3d**)

**Now complete the relevant section 3a, b, c or d by ticking the appropriate box(es)**

Further details of MIAM exemption(s) claimed by the applicant

If you have claimed a MIAM exemption above you must also tick the relevant box(es), as shown below to confirm that you have the necessary evidence to support your ground(s) for exemption and should bring it to the first hearing. Where you are asked to provide additional details you must do so.

#### **Section 3a - Domestic violence evidence**

**The applicant confirms that there is evidence of domestic violence, as specified below:**

- evidence that a prospective party has been arrested for a relevant domestic violence offence;
- evidence of a relevant police caution for a domestic violence offence;
- evidence of relevant criminal proceedings for a domestic violence offence which have not concluded;

Section 3a - Domestic violence evidence - **continued**

- evidence of relevant criminal proceedings for a domestic violence offence which have not concluded;
- evidence of a relevant conviction for a domestic violence offence;
- a court order binding a prospective party over in connection with a domestic violence offence;
- a domestic violence protection notice issued under section 24 of the Crime and Security Act 2010 against a prospective party;
- a relevant protective injunction;
- an undertaking given in England and Wales under section 46 or 63E of the Family Law Act 1996 (or given in Scotland or Northern Ireland in place of a protective injunction) by a prospective party, provided that a cross-undertaking relating to domestic violence was not given by another prospective party;
- a copy of a finding of fact, made in proceedings in the United Kingdom, that there has been domestic violence by a prospective party;
- an expert report produced as evidence in proceedings in the United Kingdom for the benefit of a court or tribunal confirming that a person with whom a prospective party is or was in a family relationship, was assessed as being, or at risk of being, a victim of domestic violence by that prospective party;

Section 3a - Domestic violence evidence - **continued**

- a letter or report from an appropriate health professional confirming that-
  - (i) that professional, or another appropriate health professional, has examined a prospective party in person; and
  - (ii) in the reasonable professional judgment of the author or the examining appropriate health professional, that prospective party has, or has had, injuries or a condition consistent with being a victim of domestic violence;
  
- a letter or report from-
  - (i) the appropriate health professional who made the referral described below;
  - (ii) an appropriate health professional who has access to the medical records of the prospective party referred to below; or
  - (iii) the person to whom the referral described below was made; confirming that there was a referral by an appropriate health professional of a prospective party to a person who provides specialist support or assistance for victims of, or those at risk of, domestic violence;
  
- a letter from any person who is a member of a multi-agency risk assessment conference (or other suitable local safeguarding forum) confirming that a prospective party, or a person with whom that prospective party is in a family relationship, is or has been at risk of harm from domestic violence by another prospective party;

Section 3a - Domestic violence evidence - **continued**

- a letter from an independent domestic violence advisor confirming that they are providing support to a prospective party;
- a letter from an independent sexual violence advisor confirming that they are providing support to a prospective party relating to sexual violence by another prospective party;
- a letter from an officer employed by a local authority or housing association (or their equivalent in Scotland or Northern Ireland) for the purpose of supporting tenants containing-
  - (i) a statement to the effect that, in their reasonable professional judgment, a person with whom a prospective party is or has been in a family relationship is, or is at risk of being, a victim of domestic violence by that prospective party;
  - (ii) a description of the specific matters relied upon to support that judgment; and
  - (iii) a description of the support they provided to the victim of domestic violence or the person at risk of domestic violence by that prospective party;

Section 3a - Domestic  
violence evidence -  
**continued**

- a letter which-
  - (i) is from an organisation providing domestic violence support services, or a registered charity, which letter confirms that it-
    - (a) is situated in England and Wales,
    - (b) has been operating for an uninterrupted period of six months or more; and
    - (c) provided a prospective party with support in relation to that person's needs as a victim, or a person at risk, of domestic violence; and
  - (ii) contains-
    - (a) a statement to the effect that, in the reasonable professional judgment of the author of the letter, the prospective party is, or is at risk of being, a victim of domestic violence;
    - (b) a description of the specific matters relied upon to support that judgment;
    - (c) a description of the support provided to the prospective party; and
    - (d) a statement of the reasons why the prospective party needed that support;

Section 3a - Domestic violence evidence - **continued**

- a letter or report from an organisation providing domestic violence support services in the United Kingdom confirming-
  - (i) that a person with whom a prospective party is or was in a family relationship was refused admission to a refuge;
  - (ii) the date on which they were refused admission to the refuge; and
  - (iii) they sought admission to the refuge because of allegations of domestic violence by the prospective party referred to in paragraph (i);
- a letter from a public authority confirming that a person with whom a prospective party is or was in a family relationship, was assessed as being, or at risk of being, a victim of domestic violence by that prospective party (or a copy of that assessment);
- a letter from the Secretary of State for the Home Department confirming that a prospective party has been granted leave to remain in the United Kingdom under paragraph 289B of the Rules made by the Home Secretary under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971, which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-index>;
- evidence which demonstrates that a prospective party has been, or is at risk of being, the victim of domestic violence by another prospective party in the form of abuse which relates to financial matters.

## Section 3b – Urgency

**The applicant confirms that the application must be made urgently because:**

- there is risk to the life, liberty or physical safety of the prospective applicant or his or her family or his or her home; or
- any delay caused by attending a MIAM would cause—
  - a significant risk of a miscarriage of justice; or
  - unreasonable hardship to the prospective applicant; or
  - irretrievable problems in dealing with the dispute (including the irretrievable loss of significant evidence); or
- there is a significant risk that in the period necessary to schedule and attend a MIAM, proceedings relating to the dispute will be brought in another state in which a valid claim to jurisdiction may exist, such that a court in that other State would be seized of the dispute before a court in England and Wales.

## Section 3c – Previous MIAM attendance or MIAM exemption

**The applicant confirms that one of the following applies:**

- in the 4 months prior to making the application, the person attended a MIAM or participated in another form of non-court dispute resolution relating to the same or substantially the same dispute; or

Section 3c – Previous MIAM attendance or MIAM exemption - **continued**

- at the time of making the application, the person is participating in another form of non-court dispute resolution relating to the same or substantially the same dispute; or
- in the 4 months prior to making the application, the person filed a relevant family application confirming that a MIAM exemption applied and that application related to the same or substantially the same dispute; or
- the application would be made in existing proceedings which are continuing and the prospective applicant attended a MIAM before initiating those proceedings; or
- the application would be made in existing proceedings which are continuing and a MIAM exemption applied to the application for those proceedings.

Section 3d – Other exemptions

**The applicant confirms that one of the following other grounds for exemption applies:**

- evidence that the prospective applicant is bankrupt exists in one of the following forms:
  - application by the prospective applicant for a bankruptcy order;
  - petition by a creditor of the prospective applicant for a bankruptcy order; or
  - a bankruptcy order in respect of the prospective applicant.

Section 3d – Other  
exemptions - **continued**

- the prospective applicant does not have sufficient contact details for any of the prospective respondents to enable a family mediator to contact any of the prospective respondents for the purpose of scheduling the MIAM.
- the application would be made without notice (Paragraph 5.1 of Practice Direction 18A sets out the circumstances in which applications may be made without notice.)
- (i) the prospective applicant is or all of the prospective respondents are subject to a disability or other inability that would prevent attendance at a MIAM unless appropriate facilities can be offered by an authorised mediator; (ii) the prospective applicant has contacted as many authorised family mediators as have an office within fifteen miles of his or her home (or three of them if there are three or more), and all have stated that they are unable to provide such facilities; and (iii) the names, postal addresses and telephone numbers or e-mail addresses for such authorised family mediators, and the dates of contact, can be provided to the court if requested.

Section 3d – Other  
exemptions - **continued**

- the prospective applicant or all of the prospective respondents cannot attend a MIAM because he or she is, or they are, as the case may be (i) in prison or any other institution in which he or she is or they are required to be detained; (ii) subject to conditions of bail that prevent contact with the other person; or (iii) subject to a licence with a prohibited contact requirement in relation to the other person.
- the prospective applicant or all of the prospective respondents are not habitually resident in England and Wales.
- a child is one of the prospective parties by virtue of Rule 12.3(1).
- (i) the prospective applicant has contacted as many authorised family mediators as have an office within fifteen miles of his or her home (or three of them if there are three or more), and all of them have stated that they are not available to conduct a MIAM within fifteen business days of the date of contact; and (ii) the names, postal addresses and telephone numbers or e-mail addresses for such authorised family mediators, and the dates of contact, can be provided to the court if requested.
- there is no authorised family mediator with an office within fifteen miles of the prospective applicant's home.

4. Mediator certifies that the prospective applicant is exempt from attendance at Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting (MIAM) or confirms MIAM attendance

**(To be completed and signed by the authorised family mediator) (tick the boxes that apply)**

**4a.**

**The following MIAM exemption(s) applies:**

- An authorised family mediator confirms that he or she is satisfied that -
  - (a) mediation is not suitable as a means of resolving the dispute because none of the respondents is willing to attend a MIAM; or
  - (b) mediation is not suitable as a means of resolving the dispute because all of the respondents failed without good reason to attend a MIAM appointment; or
  - (c) mediation is otherwise not suitable as a means of resolving the dispute.

**4b.**

**The prospective applicant attended a MIAM:**

- The prospective applicant only attended a MIAM.
- The prospective applicant and respondent party(s) attended the MIAM together.
- The prospective applicant and respondent(s) have each attended a separate MIAM.
- The prospective respondent party(s) has/have made or is/are making arrangements to attend a separate MIAM.

**Mediation or other form of Dispute Resolution is not proceeding because:**

- The applicant has attended a MIAM alone and
  - the applicant does not wish to start or continue mediation; or
  - the mediator has determined that mediation is unsuitable; or
  - the respondent did not wish to attend a MIAM
  
- Both the applicant and respondent have attended a MIAM (separately or together) and
  - the applicant does not wish to start or continue mediation; or
  - the respondent does not wish to start or continue mediation; or
  - the mediator has determined that mediation is unsuitable
  
- Mediation has started, but has:
  - broken down; or
  - concluded with some or all issues unresolved

Signed

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**Authorised Family Mediator**  
(a family mediator who is authorised to undertake MIAMs)

FMC	
Registration no.	
Family Mediation Service name	
Sole trader name	
Address	

Dated 

D	D
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 / 

M	M
---	---

 / 

Y	Y	Y	Y
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## 5. Signature

I am duly authorised by the applicant to sign this statement.

Print full name

Name of applicant  
solicitors firm  
(if applicable)

Address of  
solicitor's firm  
(if applicable)

Signed

Dated / /

*\*delete as appropriate*

\*(Applicant) (Litigation friend)  
(Applicant's solicitor)

Position or office held  
(If signing on behalf of  
firm or company)

# Checklist for completing Form A

## Page 1

- Write in your full name and the full name of the respondent

## Page 2 – 4

- Tick the nature of the financial application you are making and the type(s) or order you are seeking
- Tick if you are applying for an order by consent in the terms of a written agreement (a consent order).
  
- Tick the relevant box(es) to provide further details about the order you are applying for, and provide additional information where shown.

## Page 5 and 6

- If a party does not have a solicitor, the address for service must be an address within the United Kingdom at which the party resides or carries on business

## Page 7

- Answer questions 2a to 2c about whether a MIAM exemption applies or whether you have attended a MIAM.

- If you answered question 2a on page 7 with “yes” you must tick one of the first four boxes in section 3 to indicate the category of MIAM exemption that you are claiming. You must then complete section 3a, b, c or d as shown. Answer questions 2a to 2c about whether a MIAM exemption applies or whether you have attended a MIAM.

## Page 12

- If a family mediator needs to certify that a mediator’s exemption applies you must ask them to complete section 4a of this form and sign where shown.
- If you have attended a MIAM you must ask the family mediator who conducted it to complete section 4b of the form and sign where shown.

## Page 13

- Check that you (or your solicitor if relevant) have completed and signed section 5.

## What you do next

- If this financial remedy application is made by consent and is associated with existing divorce proceedings, and you have not already started proceedings for Financial Remedy send this application to: HMCTS Financial Remedy, PO Box 12746, Harlow, CM20 9QZ
- In all other cases, please send this application to the Financial Remedy Centre most local to the Applicant. Details can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/find-court-tribunal>

## Fees

You may need to pay a fee with your application. You should read leaflet **EX50 Civil and family court fees** to find out what fee, if any, you need to pay. This leaflet is available from your local court or online at <https://www.gov.uk/find-court-tribunal>

## **General information for completing this form**

1. You need to complete this form if you want to ask the court to make one or more of the orders shown on page 2. You must tick the relevant boxes on page 2 to indicate the nature of your application and the type(s) of order you are seeking.
2. Pages 2 to 4 set out the core information you need to provide if you wish to make an application to the court. You or your solicitor must also sign and date Section 5 of this form.
3. If you are applying for an order by consent you should tick the box on page 2 to make this clear and attach the draft order with this application.

If you are applying in connection with a divorce or civil partnership dissolution please answer the questions at the top of page 2 and attach a copy of the relevant decree or order, if you have one.

## **Requirement to attend a Mediation, Information and Assessment Meeting**

4. It is now a legal requirement that, unless an exemption applies, a person who wishes to apply to court for a financial order

must first attend a Mediation, Information and Assessment Meeting (a MIAM). At the stage before proceedings the other party (the respondent) is expected to attend either the same MIAM or a separate MIAM.

5. At the MIAM, a trained family mediator will give you (the applicant) and the other person if present (the respondent) information about family mediation and other types of non-court dispute resolution. They will consider with you whether non-court dispute resolution would be an appropriate way to resolve the dispute. It is then for the applicant and respondent to decide whether or not to do so.
6. The requirement for the applicant to attend a MIAM does not apply if a financial order is being applied for and the other person (respondent) is in agreement about what you are asking the court to order (the order is a “consent order”).
7. You or your solicitor must tick the relevant box in Section 2 of this form so that the court knows whether the MIAM requirement applies, whether an exemption applies (and why) or whether you have attended a MIAM.

## **MIAM exemptions and MIAM attendance**

8. As the applicant you are expected to have contacted an authorised family mediator in order to make arrangements to attend a MIAM unless :
  - the MIAM requirement does not apply for the reason explained at paragraph 6 of these notes, or
  - you are claiming a MIAM exemption, or a family mediator certifies that a mediator's exemption applies.
9. You can find an authorised family mediator by using the 'Find your local mediator' search facility available at: [www.familymediationcouncil.org.uk](http://www.familymediationcouncil.org.uk)
10. You should give the mediator the contact details of the other person so that the family mediator can contact them to check their willingness to attend a MIAM. If the other persons (or none of the other persons if there is more than one respondent) are unwilling to attend a MIAM this is a ground for the family mediator to exempt you from attending a MIAM.
11. If you or your solicitor believe that you have grounds for claiming exemption from MIAM attendance you or your solicitor must tick the relevant box in Section 2 of this form and complete Section 3.
12. If a family mediator wishes to certify that a mediator's exemption applies, so that you do not need to attend a MIAM, you must ask the family mediator to complete Section 4a of this form and sign it where shown.
13. If you have attended a MIAM you must ask the family mediator who conducted the MIAM to complete Section 4b of this form and sign it where shown.
14. If you claim a MIAM exemption and make an application to the court, the court will inquire into the grounds for exemption. The court may ask you to produce written evidence (see Section 3 of this form for details against each exemption shown).
15. If the court determines that the exemption was not validly claimed it may direct you, or you and the other party, to attend a MIAM and, if the case

has already progressed to the first hearing, may adjourn the case to enable you to make arrangements to attend a MIAM.

16. The detailed procedure relating to the MIAM requirement and MIAM exemptions and attendance is set out in Part 3 of the Family Procedure Rules and in supporting Practice Direction 3A (judicial guidance). These are available online at: [www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/family/practice\\_directions/pd\\_part\\_03a](http://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/family/practice_directions/pd_part_03a)

### **Paying for MIAM attendance or for family mediation**

17. Legal aid is available for MIAMs and for family mediation. If you are eligible for legal aid you could receive both the MIAM and mediation sessions free of charge, as well as some advice from a solicitor to support you in the mediation process.
18. If you, or the prospective respondent, is eligible for Legal Aid then the total cost of MIAM attendance can be met by the Legal Aid Agency, whether you and the prospective respondent attend the same MIAM or separate MIAMs.

19. If neither you nor the respective respondent is eligible for Legal Aid then the mediator will agree with you how the cost of MIAM attendance is to be met.

20. Please refer to paragraph 29 for further details on how you can find out whether you are eligible for Legal Aid by using the calculator tool available at [www.gov.uk/legal-aid](http://www.gov.uk/legal-aid)

### **Safety and MIAM attendance**

21. Please note: the family mediator will discuss with you and with the other person whether you wish to attend the MIAM separately or together. Family mediators have a responsibility to ensure the safety and security of all concerned and will always check with each of you that attending together is your individual choice and is safe.

### **Information about mediation**

22. If suitable, mediation can be a better way of resolving issues about financial arrangements when you or your partner apply for a matrimonial or civil partnership order. Mediation can be less expensive than going to court and much less stressful for all the family.

23. Family Mediation is an impartial process that involves an independent third person who assists both parties involved in a family dispute to reach a resolution. Family mediation can be used to settle any or all of the following issues:
- Financial arrangements and dividing up property
  - Arrangements for children
  - Any combination of these
  - Any other disputes to do with separation and divorce.
24. The family mediator helps the process of negotiation between the parties to agree their own arrangements by way of a Memorandum of Understanding. You can ask a solicitor, if you have one, to check the Memorandum of Understanding.
25. If both parties agree, you can ask the court to endorse what you have agreed by issuing a consent order. The mediator will help you to decide whether your case is complicated and does in fact need the court to consider your situation and make an order. The mediator should also tell you about other local services and options for resolving your dispute.
26. A statutory Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting (MIAM) is reserved for “authorised mediators” under the Family Procedure Rules. “Authorised family mediator” means a person identified by the Family Mediation Council as qualified to conduct a MIAM. “Qualified to conduct a MIAM” is interpreted as holding current Family Mediation Council accreditation (FMCA). FMCA mediators are issued with a unique FMC registration number. Authorised mediators are requested to enter this number in the box provided.

### **Further information and sources of help**

27. General information about family mediation is available from the Family Mediation Council website at: [www.familymediationcouncil.org.uk](http://www.familymediationcouncil.org.uk)
28. The family mediator who undertakes the MIAM for you must be a member of a national mediation organisation which adheres to the Family Mediation Council’s Code of Conduct and the mediator must be authorised to conduct MIAMs. The service finder will help you find such a local mediator.

29. You can find out more about legal aid for family matters, including whether you may be eligible for legal aid on the Legal Aid Information Service on the Gov. UK site at: [www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid](http://www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid) or you can telephone the Civil Legal Advice direct helpline 0345 345 4345.
30. For general advice on separation services and options for resolving disputes: [www.sortingoutseparation.org.uk](http://www.sortingoutseparation.org.uk)
31. For help with taking a case to court without a lawyer, the Personal Support Unit: [www.thepsu.org/](http://www.thepsu.org/)
32. For guidance on representing yourself at court, including a list of commonly used terms that you may come across: <http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/using-a-barrister/representing-yourself-in-court/>
33. For advice about finding and using a family law solicitor see: Law Society [www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk), and Resolution (family law solicitors): [www.resolution.org.uk](http://www.resolution.org.uk)
34. For advice about finding a family law barrister: see <http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/using-a-barrister/find-a-barrister/> and for arrangements for using a barrister directly see <http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/using-a-barrister/how-to-instruct-a-barrister/>