



HYBRID MEDIATION FACTSHEET

What is hybrid mediation?

Hybrid mediation blends the ethos of traditional family mediation with techniques employed in civil/commercial mediation. The key differences between traditional family mediation and hybrid mediation are:

- In addition to holding joint meetings, the hybrid mediation model allows the mediator to conduct separate, confidential meetings with each party. These sessions may be used to discuss sensitive issues and possible terms of agreement.
- During the hybrid mediation process, clients are supported by their own lawyer(s) who can provide legal advice and guidance throughout the sessions.

What role will my lawyer play in the process?

Lawyers for each party attend a preliminary meeting prior to establishing mutually convenient dates, times and venues for the hybrid mediation sessions. Lawyers supply information to assist the discussions, help to draft the settlement documents and are required to sign the final agreement.

What are the benefits of hybrid mediation?

Hybrid mediation offers a quick and flexible form of collaborative dispute resolution and enables all parties to be legally supported throughout the process. The hybrid model can be adapted to fit the complexities of each case and is an appropriate pathway for high conflict matters or those involving vulnerable individuals.

What happens if we still can't agree?

Should any unresolved issues remain at the end of the hybrid mediation process, a jointly appointed independent arbitrator can be called upon to settle the dispute. Please see our Family Arbitration Factsheet for further details.