

Who are we?



Fountain Mediation was founded in 2012 by a group of barrister-mediators. Many years of working within the family justice system around the North East of England had demonstrated to us that most families who break down simply want to separate as successfully as possible: making sure that their children are well cared for and maintain good relationships with both parents and sorting out their finances fairly.

Although our central office is in Middlesbrough we also have a base in Northallerton and can make arrangements, on an appointment by appointment basis, to see people in Peterlee, Sunderland, Durham & Gateshead.

Research confirms that the court process is not always helpful. For the majority who are simply struggling to find a way to cope and make new arrangements it can be a lengthy and costly process. It often makes people feel more anxious, which only makes problems worse. In the worst cases it can lead to months, if not years, of proceedings in which little progress is made and frustration simply increases.

At Fountain Mediation we have 3 mediators:

Patricia Burke: with a background as a family law barrister with over 20 years experience working with children and finances. Trisha is a member of the FMA and an associate member of Resolution.

Gill Kane: with a background as a clinical psychologist and over 10 years experience as a family law barrister. Gill is a member of the FMA and an associate member of Resolution.

Annelise Haugstad: as a criminal law barrister Annelise has over 15 years experience working with the most vulnerable families, including youths charged with serious criminal offences. Annelise is a member of FMA.

We also co-opt additional mediators from a panel of experienced qualified tried and tested mediators when the individual case dictates.

Mediation can help to find longer lasting solutions. From 1st April 2013 a **Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting** will be compulsory. The aim of this meeting is to allow you to consider other ways of dealing with family breakdown that may suit your situation better than a judge making decisions for you.

We recommend that you use someone who has been trained by, and is a member of, one of the lead organisations overseeing family mediation in England and Wales. Details of all of these organisations can be found by looking at the website of [The Family Mediation Council](#). They are: [The Family Mediators' Association](#), [The College of Mediators](#), [Resolution](#), [ADR](#) and [NFM](#). Each body has its own website and holds a record of its approved members.

Fountain Mediation abides by the Code of Practice of the Family Mediators' Association (FMA) and individual mediators are members of FMA, the College of Mediators or associate members of Resolution.