

# Resolve your dispute without going to Court.



Reid **Family** Lawyers

A specialist family law firm, committed to helping you.

## Reid Family Lawyers' Mediation Service provides an informal yet structured forum to assist you to resolve your dispute without going to Court.

**Mediation is an opportunity for you and your former partner to discuss your family law dispute in a rational and quiet way with the assistance of someone neutral who can help you to focus on looking forward and achieving a solution.**

Mediation can be used at any time throughout your family law matter, even after Court proceedings have commenced, to help bring your dispute to an end. Given the current delays in the family courts and the cost of litigation, mediation is becoming more and more common as a means of resolution.

Your legal representative is welcome throughout the mediation process to provide you with legal advice and support.

Most importantly, mediation enables you and your former partner to tailor any agreement about the division of your property and arrangements for your children to the particular needs of your family.

If you are concerned about your safety or any power imbalance, facilities can be arranged to enable mediations to be conducted in separate break out rooms.



**Maintain control of the outcome rather than relinquishing that control to a Judge.**



## Fiona Reid

### Managing Director of Reid Family Lawyers

Reid Family Lawyers' Managing Director, Fiona Reid, is an experienced LEADR trained mediator. She has gained accreditation through the Australian Institute of Family Law Arbitrators and Mediators (AIFLAM) to NMAS Standards. Fiona is often engaged by other law firms to chair mediations for their clients.



*"Fiona Reid, our founding partner, is an AIFLAM trained mediator"*

#### Accredited Specialist in family law.

Specialist Accreditation is a structured peer to peer assessment process enabling legal practitioners to be recognised for their expertise. To be accredited, specialists must pass a series of meticulous assessments on both legal knowledge and its application in practise.

Fiona holds a Master of Laws (Applied Law) majoring in Family Law and is a Graduate Fellow of the College of Law. Fiona is a member of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, is a Doyle's recommended family lawyer and has practised exclusively in the Family Law Jurisdiction since 1999, running her own firm since 2006.

Fiona is on the panel of Independent Children's Lawyers and is an active participant in training and educating other lawyers.

Fiona has years of experience in all facets of family law practice including:

- Property & Parenting
- Relocation
- Child Support Issues
- Spouse Maintenance
- Same-Sex Parenting
- De Facto Property

While Fiona will take a neutral stance during your mediation and is not able to provide you with legal advice, she is, if desired by you or your legal representatives, happy to conduct an evaluative mediation providing each of the parties with her thoughts as to the likely outcome of the proceedings, were they to proceed to a final hearing.

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## Reid Family Lawyers' Mediation Process

Fiona will arrange a brief telephone conference with each of the parties, or their solicitors, if they are represented, in the days before the mediation is to occur, to ensure both parties are ready to proceed and to address any questions or concerns anyone might have.

In preparation for the mediation, Fiona requires, from each of the parties, a short position statement (no more than 6 pages) setting out

a brief chronology of the relationship and significant/relevant facts, the outcome sought by that party and a summary of argument. If your matter is about property, then a joint balance sheet is also required.

You and your lawyers will be required to sign a confidentiality and participation agreement at the commencement of the mediation. Fiona will provide a written summary of any agreement reached at the conclusion of the mediation.

## Costs

The cost of the mediation is \$4,000 (plus GST) for a session up to 6 hours. Any additional time on the first day of the mediation is charged at \$400 per hour, or part thereof, (plus GST). A further half day, if required, is charged at \$2,000 (plus GST) for 3 hours.

Any required reading in advance of the mediation (over and above reviewing the position statements) is charged at \$400 per hour (plus GST).

The fees are payable on the day of the mediation, for which funds are required to be deposited in advance of the mediation into Reid Family Lawyers' trust account. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, the costs are shared equally between them.



Your mediation session can usually be confined to one day.



Reid Family Lawyers

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