



States of Guernsey  
**FAMILY PROCEEDINGS ADVISORY SERVICE**

## WHAT NEXT ?

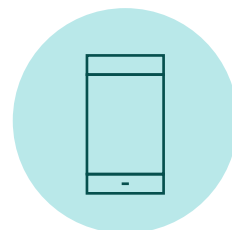
Please contact FPAS to arrange a meeting regarding our services and to discuss your options and whether we can be of assistance to you and your family.



Family Proceedings  
Advisory Service  
Guernsey Information Centre  
North Esplanade  
St Peter Port  
GY12 LQ

01481 223700

[fpasadmin@gov.gg](mailto:fpasadmin@gov.gg)



### EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

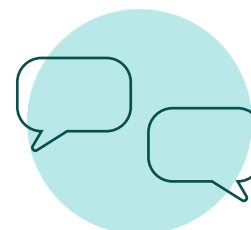
Family Proceedings Advisory Service recognise that many people in society experience discrimination or lack of opportunities for reasons that are not fair. Our aim is to ensure that all voices are heard equally.

### FAIR PROCESSING NOTICE (DATA PROCESSING)

Please refer to [www.gov.gg/familyproceedingsadvisioryservice](http://www.gov.gg/familyproceedingsadvisioryservice) to view our Fair Processing Notice.



WE CAN SUPPORT YOU WITH THE FOLLOWING



**FAMILY  
DISPUTE**  
INVOLVING CHILDREN



**FAMILY  
BREAK UP**



**CHILD  
CONTACT  
ARRANGEMENTS\***

\*how much time they spend with each parent/carers

# MEDIATION / CONFLICT RESOLUTION

## What is family mediation?

Mediation helps those involved in family breakdown to communicate more effectively and reach their own decisions on matters affecting them and their children.

The mediators will help you to improve communication, discuss solutions to problems and make practical arrangements whilst keeping the needs and wishes of the child as the central focus.



## FPAS ROLE DURING COURT AND TRIBUNAL PROCEEDINGS

A Family Proceedings Adviser (FPA) can be appointed by the Magistrate’s Court or the Royal Court when parents are separating and have not reached agreement on the care of their children, the Juvenile Court (in Public Law or Adoption), or the Child Youth and Community Tribunal

(CYCT) or the Convenor to advise on specific issues. The FPA is appointed as an independent professional to advise and make recommendations to the Courts on the current application before the Courts or referral to the Convenor.

## Why try mediation?

There are numerous benefits in taking part in mediation.

### CHILD FOCUSED

It can improve communication and help parents focus on the needs, wishes and feelings of their children

### VOLUNTARY AND FREE

It can avoid the stress and expense of court proceedings

### A SAFE SPACE

It allows all parties to express their point of view and can help to reduce conflict and feelings of resentment

### DECISIONS DOCUMENTED

Decisions made in mediation can be written into a binding agreement.




### CONFIDENTIALITY

Sessions are confidential with the exception of conflict resolution information being shared in the court process.

## The FPA’s role is:

- to meet the relevant parties
- to collate information
- to carry out agency checks (these include but are not limited to Police, Probation, CfHSC, Education)
- to gain the child’s wishes and feelings (where appropriate) and help adults recognise what is in the children’s best interests
- to facilitate communication between the parents and carers
- to refer to the Child Contact Services where necessary and collate contact reports
- to provide a report to the Court with recommendations
- to treat clients with respect, courtesy and consideration and maintain confidentiality
- When appointed as a mediator, to mediate an agreement between parties

## What issues can be discussed through mediation?

-  Where children will live
-  How much time children will spend with their extended family
-  When and how the children will see each parent
-  Who the children will spend holidays with such as Easter, summer and Christmas
-  How best to explain the situation to the children
-  How parents will communicate about their children

Family Proceedings Advisers do not advise on financial issues or maintenance, give legal advice, therapy or counselling.

The Family Proceedings Adviser does not replace the services of an advocate, or a social worker, or the police, or a contact supervisor.

The Family Proceedings Adviser will refer all child protection issues to the relevant agencies but will not undertake child protection investigations.

