If you decide to use mediation you would meet with a mediator – an independent, neutral third party – who can help you talk things through and reach agreement. Mediators are trained to help people resolve disputes. A mediator will meet the two sides, will identify the issues which cannot be agreed and will help to reach agreement. Mediators are neutral and will not take sides in any dispute. Mediators are not advisers and will not give advice on individual positions and will usually recommend that legal advice is sought alongside the mediation process.

Mediation can be particularly helpful in cross-border family disputes and parental child abduction cases. In such situations, parents are encouraged to take responsibility for the decisions concerning their family and to resolve conflicts independent of the judicial system. Mediation can therefore create a constructive atmosphere for discussions and ensure fair dealings between parents which also take account of the best interest of the child.

To obtain detailed information on finding a mediator (e.g. how to access mediation services, what the charges are and guidance on mediators) please select one of the flags listed on the right hand side.

To read more about mediation please visit the relevant section.

To read more about cross-border family mediation please visit the relevant section.

Last update: 17/11/2021

This page is maintained by the European Commission. The information on this page does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission. The Commission accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever with regard to any information or data contained or referred to in this document. Please refer to the legal notice with regard to copyright rules for European pages.