

# Boys & Maughan Family Fact Sheet - YOUR OPTIONS



There are a number of ways to deal with issues arising from separation or divorce, whether in relation to arrangements for your children or your finances.

The options are:

- To communicate with each other direct.
- To communicate between lawyers including the use of meetings.
- Mediation.
- Collaborative Law.
- Litigation.

## Direct Communication

It can be really important to be able to continue to talk to each other without using lawyers, especially if you have children. You might still need legal advice before you try this.

## Through Lawyers

This might be helpful if some of the issues are complicated or if communication is difficult.

## Mediation

A series of meetings with a trained and qualified mediator who will guide you and your partner through the issues and look at the possible options which will hopefully enable you to come to an agreement. Mediation does not produce automatically binding agreements or court orders, but we can give you advice and help you turn a mediated agreement into a court order where appropriate.

## Collaborative Law

A series of meetings but with lawyers for both parties present. The process involves making a commitment not to go to court. You and your partner must instruct a specialist collaborative lawyer. If you cannot reach an agreement and want to go to court you must then each instruct a new firm.

## Litigation

The court process which enables a judge to decide the arrangements if you cannot reach an agreement. The court will timetable the progress of the case.

**The contents of this fact sheet are general principles and do not constitute legal advice. Every case is different.**



**Margate**  
Hawley Street  
01843 234000

**Birchington**  
Station Road  
01843 842356

**Broadstairs**  
High Street  
01843 868861

**Ramsgate**  
Queen Street  
01843 595990

[www.boysandmaughan.co.uk](http://www.boysandmaughan.co.uk)