

## Mediation



***Are you in a dispute with someone?***

***Do you want to reach an outcome that works for you both? Do you want to save time, legal fees and costs? Mediation is the answer!***

### **What is mediation?**

Mediation is a process where one or two independent person(s) (the 'mediator(s)') assist disagreeing parties to resolve conflict. Mediation helps people settle disputes without going to court.

### **What does BCLS's mediation service provide?**

BCLS provides FREE confidential mediations, separate from our legal service. We have a large panel of mediators, so we have limited wait times and quick turnovers.

### **What sort of issues can a mediator help with?**

Anything can be mediated, but we mostly deal with:

- Divorce/separation;
- Property settlements;
- Parenting plans;
- Neighbourhood disputes including peace and good behaviour orders, fences, retaining walls and overhanging branches; and
- Debt issues.

### **How does mediation work?**

BCLS provides co-mediation - two mediators instead of one. During mediation, no lawyers are present. The mediator has no determinative role but will assist each party to identify issues in dispute, develop options and consider alternatives to reach a mutually acceptable outcome. The mediations usually go for 2 to 4 hours, but this depends on the complexity of the issues.

### **Who attends mediation?**

Attending our mediations is voluntary and both parties need to agree to attend.

### **Mediation and the law**

Mediation is not a legal process. Mediators cannot provide you with legal advice. If you have questions about your rights or responsibilities, BCLS suggests you seek legal advice before the mediation.

### **Are mediation sessions legally binding?**

Mediation sessions are simply an agreement between two parties. For example, a mediated parenting plan is not binding, however the two parties are able to submit their agreement to the Family Court to make it binding.

### **How do I apply to use the mediation service?**

Complete a mediation form via our website, email us at [mediation@bcls.org.au](mailto:mediation@bcls.org.au), or call us at 31623282.

We then assess your legal issue, determine whether it is suitable for mediation, and pass your details on to our mediators, who will contact you to begin the process.

[www.bcls.org.au](http://www.bcls.org.au)

[info@bcls.org.au](mailto:info@bcls.org.au)

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*Bayside Community Legal Service acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands across Queensland, and in particular the Quandamooka peoples, the traditional owners of this land where our Bayside community is situated. We pay our respect to elders past, present and emerging*