A DIVORCE LAWYER EXPLAINS SHUTTLE FAMILY LAW MEDIATION

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Mediation is often an essential part of resolving a Family Law conflict. However, mediations can appear to be overwhelming, especially in the context of a relationship characterised by family or domestic violence or in high conflict relationships. **Is there a way to go to mediation without having to come into contact with the other party?** Depending on the individual situation, shuttle mediation may be a suitable option.

Shuttle Family Law Mediation

In shuttle family law mediations, each party is separated into different rooms or locations (this includes in online mediations where separate breakout rooms are offered). The mediator moves between the rooms and conveys the other party's statement as to the issues, ideas for progressing the case and any offers to settle the case. This type of mediation is aimed at maximising both parties' safety whilst providing a means to discuss, and hopefully resolve, the case in a confidential setting.

Advantages of Shuttle Mediation

o Improved safety of the parties;

o Reduction in the likelihood of conflict between the parties during the mediation event;

o Good alternative where Court Orders prevent the parties from being together physically or there are allegations of family violence;

o Freedom to express opinions or concerns to the mediator without the other party there to react negatively;

o The mediator can hear from both parties who are given equal time to express their views. In a relationship where a party feels they get talked over by the other party, this can be helpful.

Disadvantages of Shuttle Mediation

o It can take a longer time for the mediator to convey each message between the parties, leaving less time for meaningful negotiations;

o The pace of the mediation can be slower;

o There is potential for miscommunication;

o Parties have less control over the direction of the conversation.

If you would like to find our more about mediation please contact our Family Law Lawyers on 1800 300 170 or email us at famlaw@matthewsfolbigg.com.au or by using the CONTACT US or LIVE CHAT functions on this website.

Disclaimer

Family law situations can be complex and sometimes they can involve serious issues. Information outlined is proposed to provide general guidance only. Due to the seriousness of legal matters as well as the uniqueness of your individual situation, professional advice should be sought. For advice, please contact one of our Family Lawyers.