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# Mediation – the alternative to a day in Court

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Since 2014, there has been a legal requirement for parties to attend an initial mediation meeting before they are able to make an application to the Court regarding family law proceedings. The Courts themselves are now under a duty to consider alternative dispute resolution in appropriate cases.

Regardless of this requirement, why should you consider mediation as a means to resolving family disputes?

Firstly, mediation will not try to reconcile the relationship, but it will allow the parties to communicate with the help of someone who is independent and with the view to provide a forum that is safe and encouraging of open communication.

By reaching an agreement through mediation, the parties remain in control as they will work towards reaching a decision which is best for both parties, there is nobody making an overall decision for everyone involved, unlike reaching an agreement through the Court process.

Whilst we understand that mediation may not work in all cases, the need to keep the lines of communication open between parties in family cases is something which should be strived for where possible.

Our aim at Hethertons is to work with clients in a respectful and cooperative manner in order that they move forward positively.

You can contact one of the Hethertons Family Team on **01904 528200**.

