



Sousa Law



NCDR

NON-COURT DISPUTE RESOLUTION

ALTERNATIVES TO THE FAMILY COURT PROCESS

Sousa Law provide a variety of NCDR solutions for family law matters. This ensures the most supported outcomes for you and your family.







Free NCDR Information Appointment

Sousa Law offer a free 15-minute online appointment to provide you with further information about ways of resolving matters outside of the Court process, and how we can help you and your family through relationship breakdown in the best way possible.

This can be a joint or individual appointment and it will be followed up with an email providing you with information on next steps.

To book your free 15-minute appointment please contact us using the information below.

Contact Us

-  02380 713060
-  enquiries@sousalaw.co.uk
-  www.sousalaw.co.uk
-  16 College Place, Southampton, SO15 2FE

About Us

Sousa Law specialise in all areas of Family Law, with specific expertise in helping families resolve matters outside of the Court process. We understand that a relationship breakdown can be one of the most difficult and emotionally draining experiences for individuals and families, particularly when there are children to be considered.

Sousa Law provide a sensitive and compassionate approach. We often work with other neutral professionals, including Independent Financial Advisors and Family Consultants to ensure that you have full support with the legal, emotional and financial aspects of your divorce and separation.

All of our Family Lawyers are members of Resolution (www.resolution.org.uk). They provide proactive, child-focused advice and solutions, reducing the need for Court proceedings.

We offer a full range of NCDR services and we can work with you flexibly to secure the best outcome for you and your family.



Family Mediation

Family Mediation can help you to resolve arrangements for your children, finances and property. Meetings can be in person, shuttle or online. You will each have a Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting (MIAM) separately first, to ensure this is the right process for you and your family. If mediation is the right solution for you and your family joint meetings can then be arranged.



Child Inclusive Mediation

Child Inclusive Mediation (CIM) involves a specialist mediator speaking with your child independently from you. The mediator will listen and allow the child to have a voice. This can help each parent to understand how your child is feeling and what can be done to improve your child's physical and emotional well-being. CIM is not therapy and constructive feedback may be given to both parents in a separate meeting without your child present.



Hybrid Mediation

Hybrid Mediation involves your mediator working with you as a couple and with your lawyers to resolve matters. You will have on hand legal advice from your respective lawyers and you may stay in separate rooms with the mediator moving between you. Hybrid mediation will often last for a full day or series of days.



Collaborative Law

Collaborative Law can help you reach a practical and fair solution together, prioritising any children. You and your collaborative lawyers will commit to resolving all issues outside of Court. You will both have your own collaboratively trained lawyer who will give advice in joint meetings so you hear advice at the same time. This will often mean a swifter, less costly and more positive outcome for the family as a whole.



Round Table Meetings

There may be reasons why mediation or collaborative law are not suitable. In such cases round table meetings with lawyers present can be very productive. Meetings can be shuttled so you remain in separate rooms. Your lawyer will ensure that meetings are conducted in a respectful and safe environment at all times.



Early Neutral Evaluation

If you cannot reach an agreement due to significant legal differences or complex issues an Early Neutral Evaluation may help. On an agreed set of facts, a neutral analysis of the law and opinion on likely outcomes can be provided from an experienced family law specialist or Judge.



Private FDR

A private FDR is a formal negotiation meeting, similar to a negotiation hearing (FDR) in Court. The private FDR Judge will hear arguments from your respective lawyers and will then give an indication of likely outcome based on the law. You can choose the judge, time and location of hearing.



Resolution Together

This is a one lawyer one couple model where the lawyer can advise both of you to help reach agreement. It is not suitable for all couples, particularly where they have opposing goals or in high-conflict matters. Resolution Together can be cost-effective, and where there is good communication and a common aim a swift solution is often found.



Arbitration

Arbitration is a private Court process that will give you a binding outcome. There are many benefits to Arbitration including the ability to choose the Arbitrator, time and location of the Arbitration hearing. It is often quicker and more cost effective than the Court process. Arbitration may be dealt with on the papers rather than having to attend a hearing. An Arbitrator can give a determination on single or limited issues as agreed.