Family Mediation £500 Voucher scheme

What is on offer:
The government has created a time limited fund to help with the costs of mediation to help reduce the numbers needing to apply to courts https://www.gov.uk/guidance/family-mediation-voucher-scheme

This can be shared between the two parents but the total funding per family is £500 towards their mediation costs to resolve child arrangements matters if they do not already qualify for free mediation through Legal Aid.

Please note claims are limited to one per family/case for a one-off contribution of up to £500 towards the mediation costs, if eligible.

How the scheme works

- The scheme covers the costs of actual mediation sessions only not initial individual sessions.
- The payments will be made directly to the mediation service who will claim instead of asking you for payment after a mediation session.
- All we need to do is ask you to complete a simple Consent Form before we apply for the voucher. In addition, when we apply for payment at the end of the process, you may be asked to provide some feedback as to whether mediation helped resolve matters but that is optional.

Am I eligible for the Voucher?

- You are eligible provided you are trying to sort out **child arrangements** or a **combination of children and financial matters.**
- If you are seeking to resolve financial matters only then you are not eligible**.**
- You are eligible irrespective of your income.
- You are NOT eligible if you have previously received a voucher

How does this link to Legal Aid funding?

- If you qualify for free mediation through Legal Aid because you are on benefits or a low income, then use that instead of the Voucher scheme as it covers the whole mediation process without the £500 limit.
- If your ex-partner qualifies for free mediation you can get one session free linked to his/her Legal Aid eligibility and any further costs covered by the voucher scheme - see separate leaflet enclosed re **Legal Aid.**

What do I do now?
Contact the service by phone or email for more information or speak to your mediator at your initial consultation.

Children First Family Mediation
Email: admin@childrenfirstfamilymediation.org.uk
Tel: 0161 763 8793