Getting involved:

A guide to Family Mediation Week 27 – 31 January 2025



Organised by the FMC, Family Mediation Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness of family mediation and its benefits to separating families. Our aim is to let more people know about the benefits of family mediation and encourage separating couples to think about family mediation as a way of helping them take control, make decisions together and build a positive future for their family.

What will happen during Family Mediation Week?

The FMC is hosting a series of webinars, aiming to increase awareness of family mediation amongst different groups of people.

We have a full <u>online timetable of events</u>, which are free to attend. These include sessions:

- for the public (about the benefit of MIAMs, the flexibility and power of mediation, child-inclusive mediation, and whether it is possible to mediate with a narcissist);
- for lawyers (hybrid mediation, digital solutions to improve separation, mediation into arbitration and a guide to maximising the success in the mediation process);
- for mediators (mediation research findings, considerations for mediation where there are issues of domestic abuse, kinship care and mediation); and
- for all professionals working with families (the importance of child-inclusive mediation, how mediation supports parents in building healthier parenting relationships).

We also have in person events that you members may be interested in attending.

- <u>Family Mediation Week Coffee Morning</u> London, Thursday 30 January hosted by the Family Law in Partnership
- <u>Demystifying MIAMs: A professional's guide to what really happens during the first meeting</u> (this includes a mock MIAM) Farnborough, Thursday 30 January hosted by Reading Family Mediation
- <u>Family Mediation Week Drinks Reception</u> Leeds, Friday 31 January hosted by Hall Brown Family Law

Alongside these webinars, we will be sharing resources and information about family mediation on multiple channels. Everything we do is aimed at ensuring people having a better understanding at the end of the week of how non-court dispute resolution can help families, than they do at the start!

We need your help!

The FMC and its five member organisations are all involved in and contributing to Family Mediation Week in different ways. It is great to have so many individuals coming together under the FMC umbrella to promote family mediation.

However, there is only so much we can do centrally. As an FMC Registered mediator, you can also have a significant impact, so please get involved.

You can do this by:

- o Following us on social media, and liking, retweeting and sharing our posts to share our news and events with your network.
- o Making a mediation pledge. Choose one and do it well it will make a difference!
- O Hosting your own event, share a resource such as those here, or writing an article tell us about it, and we will help spread the word!

My Mediation Pledge

Promoting family mediation also promotes your business, and vice versa.

For this reason, we invite you all to make a pledge before or during Family Mediation Week to carry out a specific marketing activity. This doesn't have to be done during the week itself, but use the week as the catalyst to make the commitment. We have had great feedback from mediators who have used some following approaches to marketing which have resulted in increased referrals. Why not try:

- A pledge to use the FMC's template press releases <u>such as the one we've released for</u>
 Family Mediation Week
- A pledge to invite solicitors to observe MIAMs (with participant consent and where there
 is no conflict). You can use the <u>FMC's Code of Conduct for observations</u> of mediations or
 MIAMs by non-mediators to ensure confidentiality is maintained
- A pledge to distribute this simple <u>single-page A4 leaflet</u> about family mediation to local advice centres, libraries etc. Online versions of the leaflet are available on our website <u>here</u> and can be used by mediators on websites and social media
- A pledge to contact one of: local schools, domestic abuse advice agencies or GPs with an
 offer to give a presentation about family mediation

Thank you to our sponsors

Family Mediation Week 2025 is being generously supported by our sponsors. This sponsorship allows us to spread the message about family mediation further than we would otherwise, and the FMC would like to thank all sponsors for their support.





















AnthonyGold

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Remember to use #familymediationweek