



SHAW MEDIATION
AUSTRALIA

Preparing for Mediation Checklist

Family Dispute Resolution



Thank you for contacting SHAW Mediation to assist with your client with Family Dispute Resolution. To assist you and your client being as ready for the day as possible, we've put together a checklist of things you may want to consider. There is space for you to jot down thoughts if you want, but its not necessary. We just want to make sure that the time we spend with you is productive & empowering, and that we can together achieve a better outcome.

PART 1—My Thoughts heading into Mediation

What questions do I have?

What are my greatest concerns going into Mediation?

What are the barriers in getting this resolved?

What are the things my client needs to take into account & negotiate around?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Living arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work Conditions (eg.nightshift)
<input type="checkbox"/>	School holidays	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transport & handover	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent Illness
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extra-curricular activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Child support	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christmas/Easter/Birthdays etc
<input type="checkbox"/>	School/education fees	<input type="checkbox"/>	Interstate/overseas travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

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PART 2—Thoughts on Children & Parenting

What are some of the issues that are unsettling your client at the moment?

Describe a typical day for the children...

Describe a typical current fortnightly routine for the children...

What are the extra curricular activities for each child, and are they during the week?

Are any views expressed by the child/children?

What is the role and relationship with grandparents?

Is anyone else involved with the supervision of the children on a regular basis?

What's the nature of their relationship?

Prior to separation, who made the day to day decisions and arrangements for the children, i.e., My client; Other parent; or About equal?

My client's proposed living arrangements look like this...

What other options are acceptable to my client if their desired outcome is not agreed?

Is there any transition period required or necessary and why?

Are there any practical difficulties and expense of the proposed change?

What's the capacity of my client to meet the needs of the children for their desired living arrangement?

Are there any cultural or religious considerations that are relevant?

Has there been any family violence involving the child/children or my client?

Is a family violence order in place?

Is child support being paid currently? How and for what?

Are there any child support arrears? How did they come about?

What is the net financial resources available to my client per week, month and year?

What is the net financial resources available for the other parent per week, month and year?

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PART 3 — Further thoughts

Have the parents attended a family consultant or psychologist?

Has a family assessment report been prepared, if so what are the recommendations of the report?

What is the worst case scenario for my client and why?

What is the best case scenario for my client and why?

Is a parenting plan or consent orders better for my client and why?

What injunction or reassurances does my client need to feel confident in the parenting arrangements?

How far apart do the parents live?

Does my client have the financial resources to pay for the proposed travel arrangements?

Are there any work arrangements that need to be taken into consideration?

How soon will my client's case be listed for a trial?

How much have I advised my client that their legal fees will be between now and the end of a trial?

How will my client perform in a witness box?

Is a barrister already briefed for trial? Or do I need an opinion from counsel?

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