



KINGSLEY • DAVID
— SOLICITORS WITH NOTARIES —



**Considering a divorce or separation?
There is a better way**

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Child Consultation in Mediation

We are delighted to announce that our family mediator has recently qualified as a fully trained child consultant, in addition to being a mediator fully recognised in all issues family mediation accredited by the Law Society and Resolution.

Clare, one of our directors in the firm, has recently undergone and successfully completed the training to become a child consultant. She can see children of parents who are already in the mediation process with us and can also act as an external consultant for those who are mediating with another family mediator. Clare explains what this means for our mediation practice.

"I am delighted that I have recently completed my direct child consultation in mediation and wonder now why I had not done this training sooner. I have been working in the family law profession for 17 years. My motivation to train as both a collaborative family lawyer and a mediator very soon after my qualification arose when I became disillusioned with the legal process and felt that there must be a better way for my clients to separate or divorce. I have gone on to assist many clients within mediation and I have been accredited as a specialist mediator by the Law Society and Resolution since 2012.

Times have changed in family law. Unfortunately many of our local family courts have now closed, many more people are unable

to afford legal representation and are acting for themselves in the court process, the courts are becoming clogged and this is causing significant delays which in children's cases can be so significant in the life of the child and for the parents who are left in limbo. Having completed the direct child consultation training, I find myself questioning why I have not used this more in my own mediation practice. I wonder how many clients and children might benefit and how little the general public still know about the huge benefits that mediation can bring. There is a way forward in the mediation process where children can be involved, only with both parents' express consent and where a mediator feels it is appropriate, which will enable a child's hopes, feelings, concerns and views to be expressed.

I am looking forward to expanding my practice and offering my services as an external consultant trained to consult directly with children. If you would like more information about direct child consultation please contact me and I can discuss how best this could assist you. I hope as a local community we can involve children more where appropriate to really offer something of value to those who are facing such difficult decisions following a family separation and I look forward to putting my skills into practice."

Clare can be contacted on 01908 325555 or by email at clarekitteridge@kingsleydavid.com

(Advertising Feature)

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