



FAMILY MEDIATORS ASSOCIATION OF THE CAPE

INFORMATION BROCHURE



021 - 801 6176



info@famac.co.za



FAMAC



www.famac.co.za

MEDIATION

Our mediators help gather information, identify issues, and negotiate terms in order to reach a settlement.

- Resolve legal and financial issues
- Reach an agreement regarding arrangements for children
- Find common ground
- Collaborate on creating a lasting agreement

PARENTING COORDINATION

Parenting coordinators are experienced mediators in family law, psychology and social work and are appointed by agreement in terms of a Court Order and are mandated to resolve disputes.

- Assist parties in implementing parenting plans
- Help resolve disputes about maintenance
- Advocate for the best interests of the children

HOW CAN FAMAC HELP?

We help provide a more durable outcome and aim at achieving a formal agreement between parties through collaboration. Our approach is holistic, taking into account many factors which adjudication does not.

Our mediators examine the causes and dynamics of the conflicts, interests and positions of the parties.



FAMILY MEDIATORS' ASSOCIATION OF THE WESTERN CAPE

FAMAC has its origins in FAMSA Western Cape, where an interest group was formed in 1988 to look into the possibility of offering a divorce/family mediation service. After training with Lisa Parkinson and Henry Brown of the Family Mediators' Association in the UK FAMAC adopted the FMA training model and became autonomous.

Mediation is a voluntary and confidential process in which parties are helped by a neutral professional (a legal practitioner and or mental health practitioner – social worker or psychologist) to explore possibilities of resolving issues and disputes (any family and divorce related disputes) between themselves by mutual agreement without adjudication.

FAMAC EVENTS

We host training, workshops and conferences and invite experts to help inform, educate and upskill our members.

- Learn from accredited mediation experts
- Network with other industry professionals
- Develop skills to create more effective outcomes
- Learn to manage conflict in a wide application field

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Need advice?

Contact us to find out more about how our accredited mediators can help with divorce and family disputes.

Or find out more about our events, workshops and training.

[CONTACT US](#)

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WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation involves families in conflict working out arrangements for themselves and their children with the help of a neutral and skilled mediator.

THE AIM OF MEDIATION

The aim of mediation is to reach an agreement that is mutually acceptable to the parties within the broad range of that which a court would be likely to approve.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

Each mediation session usually lasts two hours. The number of sessions needed depends on the nature of the problems – generally, 3 to 6 sessions are necessary. The charges for mediation sessions are payable at the end of each session. Responsibility for payment of mediation fees may be shared between the parties in any way they may agree.

CHALLENGES ADDRESSED

Any or all of the problems that arise when couples split up can be brought to mediation.

- Listens to both parents and helps them come to a decision
- Arrangements concerning the children eg. drawing up a
- parenting plan and care arrangements
- Property and financial matters

WHO MEDIATES?

A trained, experienced and accredited mediator can mediate on his/her own. Mediation in the divorce/separation/child-related field may be most effectively and ideally dealt with by two mediators who work together as a team: one an experienced family lawyer and the other an experienced professional trained in marital and family work, usually a psychologist or a social worker.



PARENTING COORDINATION

Parenting coordination was developed to reduce post-divorce/separation conflict. It offers parents a forum to resolve disputes regarding their children or maintenance after they have been divorced or separated, without going to court. Parenting coordinators are experienced mediators in family law and appointed by agreement in terms of a Court Order and are mandated to resolve disputes that arise post-divorce/separation – mainly relating to the best interests of the children.

PARENTING COORDINATORS AND CHILDREN'S NEEDS

Parenting coordinators are not authorized to issue directives around relocation, inside or outside the borders of South Africa. This may vary depending on the parenting plan or the contact arrangements already agreed upon but the parenting coordinator may make a recommendation which is non-binding.

Parenting coordinators frequently deal with disputes regarding contact and holiday arrangements, choices of schooling or any other aspect of the children's lives where the parents need to make joint decisions. Some Court orders also mandate the parenting coordinator to resolve disputes around maintenance but may not vary maintenance orders by issuing a directive. Parenting coordinators, like mediators, are trained by FAMAC in a dedicated 40 hour training course.

Need advice?

Contact us to find out more about how our accredited mediators and parenting coordinators can help with divorce and family disputes. [CONTACT US](#)

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM PARENTING COORDINATORS

Parenting coordinators are authorised to issue directives in certain mandated areas, they mediate and make recommendations that are binding on both parents. These directives can only be varied by a Court of competent jurisdiction or by agreement between the parents.

REQUIREMENTS OF PARENTING COORDINATORS

Parenting coordinators are required to attempt to resolve disputes by way of mediation at first instance. Parenting coordinators are also authorised to speak to all relevant parties including the children, and in some instances it may be necessary for a parenting coordinator to appoint an expert to complete various assessments, which could include contact and care, holiday contact, change of school.

FAMAC'S CORE VALUES



Self-determination

Both parties have the autonomy to make the decisions instead of giving up that power to a neutral third party. The mediator is simply there to guide the conversation to help the parties themselves make the necessary decisions.

Fair and equitable mediation

Mediators act as objective third-parties to help enhance communications between parties, fostering an improved working relationship.

Creative problem-solving

Through the skilled assistance of a mediator, parties are encouraged to listen, keep confidence, be empathetic, respect each other's values, and focus on resolving underlying conflict.

FAMAC Constitution

Read more about the principles that govern the FAMAC organisation by downloading our constitution [here](#).

Mediation in The Children's Act

The Children's Act gives effect to certain rights of children as contained in the Constitution.

Application for Accreditation

Please download and complete the form on our [website](#) and email it to info@famac.co.za if you have completed training other than FAMAC's 40 hr training.

Application for FAMAC Training

To apply for our FAMAC 40 hr mediation training download the form on the [website](#) and email the completed form with proof of payment to info@famac.co.za

FAMAC Accreditation Requirements

To find out more about our accreditation requirements on our [website](#).

Mediator Feedback

Please download and complete the feedback form on our website for mediators and email it to info@famac.co.za.

Parenting Coordinator Request Form

Please download the form on the [website](#) and complete the required form and email it to info@famac.co.za

Protocol for Appointing a Parenting Coordinator

To find out more about the protocol for appointed as a parenting coordinator download the document from our [website](#).

Code of Practice

To find out more about FAMAC's code of conduct and practice you can [download](#) the document.