

What is family arbitration?

Family arbitration is a form of private dispute resolution in which you and your ex-partner appoint a fair and impartial family arbitrator to resolve your dispute.

Family arbitration is an ideal approach for people who want to resolve a family dispute without the delay and expense of the court process. It allows you and your ex-partner to engage in a flexible process, with complete confidentiality, and the knowledge that a decision will be made.

The family arbitrator will produce a decision after hearing from each of you. They will act fairly and impartially, giving each of you the opportunity to put forward your views.

Family arbitration applies the law of England and Wales. It is different to other forms of non-court dispute resolution such as mediation and collaborative law in that you are guaranteed a decision which will be made for you.

What can it cover?

Family arbitration can be used to help separating couples (whether married or not) following the breakdown of a relationship to settle disputes relating to:

- Finances and Property
- Child maintenance
- Living arrangements for your children after separation
- The time your children will spend with their parents
- Other arrangements concerning the upbringing of the children (e.g. schooling)
- Moving the children with a parent to a different part of England Wales
- Moving the children on a temporary or permanent basis to “Hague” countries.

How do I find an arbitrator?

You can look on the IFLA (Institute of Family Law Arbitrators) website [here](#)
Each arbitrator has their own costs schedule.