BECKY TAYLOR FAMILY MEDIATION

FREE GUIDE · GRANDPARENT CONTACT

Grandparent Contact Rights

Understanding grandparent rights and how mediation can help maintain family relationships.

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Do Grandparents Have Legal Rights?

Grandparents do not have an automatic legal right to see their grandchildren. However, they can apply to court for a Child Arrangements Order to secure contact if parents refuse.

The law recognises that maintaining relationships with grandparents is usually in children's best interests — but parents' wishes are also respected.

Before applying to court, grandparents must first attend mediation (unless exempt due to domestic abuse or urgency).

> "The law favours family relationships, but grandparents must show that contact benefits the child — not just that they want it."

When Mediation Can Help

Mediation works well for grandparent contact disputes because it creates a neutral space for difficult conversations without the adversarial nature of court.

Mediation Can Help When

- Parents have stopped contact following separation or divorce
- There is a family disagreement or fallout
- Grandparents want to maintain existing contact that is at risk
- A balance needs to be found between parents' wishes and children's needs

Mediation Cannot Help When

- There are serious safeguarding concerns about the grandparents
- There is ongoing domestic abuse or coercive control
- One party refuses entirely to engage

Applying for a Child Arrangements Order

If mediation fails or parents refuse to engage, grandparents can apply to court. However, you must first get permission (called "leave") from the court to make the application.

1

Attend Mediation (MIAM)

Grandparents must attend a MIAM first (unless exempt). The mediator will confirm mediation was attempted.

2

Apply for Leave to Make an Application

File Form C2 asking the court for permission to apply for a Child Arrangements Order. You must show a genuine connection to the child and that contact would benefit them.

3

If Leave is Granted, Apply for a Child Arrangements Order

File Form C100 setting out what contact you are seeking. The court will consider the child's welfare as the paramount concern.

Need help?

Mediation is often faster, cheaper, and less stressful than court. We can help facilitate these sensitive conversations.

BOOK A FREE 30-MINUTE CALL

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