



Family Dispute Settlement

The aim of divorce and family mediation is to assist parties to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement that recognises the needs and rights of all family members.

Disputed family matters are characterized by confrontational and intimidating court appearances, emotional strain, substantial legal and related costs for both parties, delays or postponements at court, expensive and unpredictable litigation, which can have a detrimental effect on family members.

Equillore offers a dedicated service for all categories of family matters, including:

- Pre & Post Divorce Negotiations
- Divorce Settlement Agreements
- Maintenance Increases, Decreases & Various Related Applications
- Access to Children
- Custody Disputes
- Parenting Plans
- Parental Responsibility & Rights Agreements (care, contact & guardianship)
- Facilitation in Post Divorce Matters
- Relocation Disputes.

How does it work?

1. Refer the case to Equillore.
2. A case manager will immediately assess the case to verify that the necessary information is available before the process officially starts.
3. Equillore will notify the other party of the referral. Both parties will be requested to submit further relevant information and a

statement of case. We will then arrange a date and venue for a conciliation meeting, the first step in our multi-tier process.

4. At this two hour conciliation meeting, chaired by an accredited family mediator, the primary goal is to assist parties to reach a mutually acceptable settlement.
5. Each party is offered the opportunity to state their case, and the mediator assists the parties to identify common ground and the points in dispute. The confidentiality of the process creates an environment conducive to open, structured and focused negotiations, which leads to early settlement.
6. If the parties reach an agreement, the mediator will confirm and formally record it.
7. This settlement agreement is final and binding and can be made an order of court.

What if no agreement is reached?

The parties can select an appropriate course of action from the following options:

1. If the parties believe that an agreement is close or that a further exchange of information will lead to settlement, they may elect to have a further conciliation meeting.
2. If it is clear that, due to the complexity of the matter, more substantial effort will be required, a specialised mediator can be appointed by the parties.
3. If no agreement is possible, the parties can revert back to court.





The mediator records the detailed minutes, the decisions made and the issue the parties agree upon and the issues remaining in dispute, and the dates and responsibilities for the next step.

This detailed recordal ensures that the case proceeds expeditiously to the next step, and is compliant with the requirements of the court.

Costs

1. Costs are defined, capped and budgeted for in advance.
2. The referring party pays a registration fee of R570. Thereafter both parties will be requested to share the costs of the conciliation meeting.
3. A typical maintenance application requires one session of two hours. This will cost R1 140 per participant (total of R2 280), paid in advance. This includes the services of a qualified mediator and we will issue the draft order.
4. A typical divorce application will require two to three sessions of two hours. This will cost R1 875 per participant (total of R3 750) per session including the services of a qualified mediator, drafting of court documents for the formal divorce and the settlement agreement.

Fees charged by your attorney are not included.

The Mediators

All mediators are accredited by the Dispute Settlement Accreditation Council (DiSAC), in line with international standards. They are governed by

the Equillore Code of Conduct and philosophy of early settlement of disputes.

In letter and in spirit of the changes made in the court processes and legislation, as well as the King III report and Companies Act, Equillore mediators and arbitrators are required to play a pro-active role in the process to curb unnecessary costs and to avoid the waste of time.

Their goal is to enable quick and fair settlement agreements and to ensure that parties who chose not to use lawyers are not at a disadvantage.

Why use Equillore?

Equillore is a trusted third party that offers cutting edge dispute processes while remaining rooted in tradition.

We use a multi-tier approach to conciliation, mediation and arbitration that is uncomplicated, innovative and integrated with the civil justice system and the new rules of court.

Our electronic case management system keeps track of all events and exchanges of information and documents, and provides parties with web-based access to case status and progress information.

Equillore has managed in excess of 45,000 disputes over the last decade, settling over 75% of these at conciliation.

This translates to major savings in time and money for both parties involved in a dispute.

For more information visit our website www.equillore.com or call 0861 258 852



EQUILLORE
Enabling Dispute Settlement