

COSTS

You will normally be assessed for Public Funding (legal aid), so please bring with you evidence of income to cover the 4 weeks immediately before this appointment. This should include –

- Payslips for either the appropriate month, or the previous 4 weeks
- Your most recent tax credit or benefit assessment letter (the whole document)
- Bank statements covering the appropriate 4 week period
- Your National Insurance Number

If you do not provide the correct evidence to verify your eligibility for legal help, you will be liable for a fee for mediation sessions.

- If you are eligible, the Legal Services Commission will meet your mediation costs in full. They will also pay for your solicitor to advise you during mediation, including preparation of consent orders. The Statutory Charge (the costs the Legal Services Commission charge you if there is a financial gain as a result of legal work) does not apply to mediation. If you come to mediation at an early stage – before the need for legal proceedings – the statutory charge does not apply to the solicitor's work either.

Your mediation and the bulk of your legal work could be cost free.



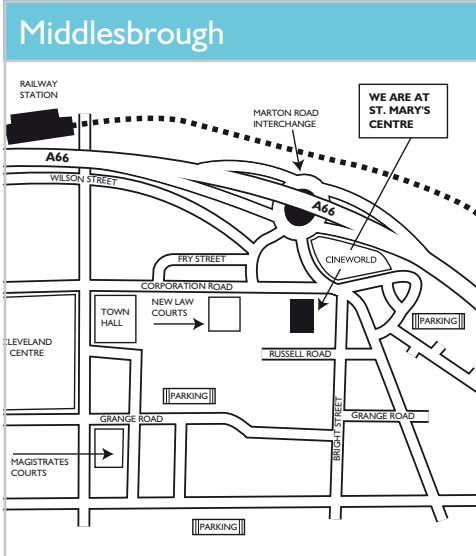
- If you are not eligible for public funding, there is a fee for mediation:
- **Financial matters: £180 per person**, including VAT, per session, lasting up to 2 hours, plus a one-off administration fee of £50.
- **Child only matters: £90 per person**, including VAT, per 1 hour meeting.
- If your disposable income as calculated at your intake session is less than £900 per month, the fees are subsidised and will be £75 for Children's matters and £150 for financial matters.

Typical solicitor charges in the Cleveland area vary, but it is not unusual to pay around £150 per hour, plus VAT.

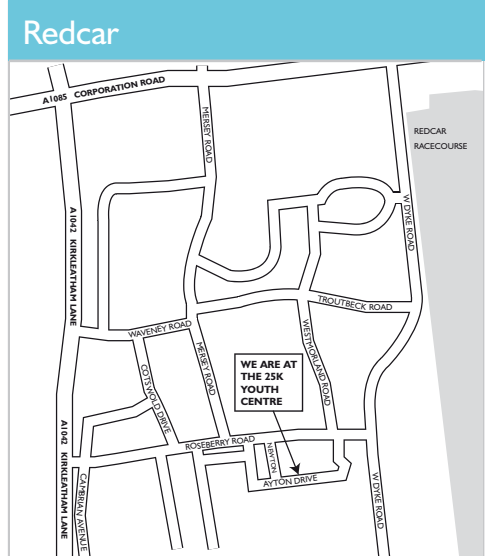
- The Legal Services Commission suggests that if you were to handle these issues through Court rather than use mediation, the costs for financial matters could be between £5,000 and £10,000, and for child issues £3,000 to £6,000.
- If you are not eligible for public funding, mediation can help you to keep costs to a minimum, and make focussed use of your solicitor at the most appropriate time.

Mediation can help you **HALVE** your legal costs

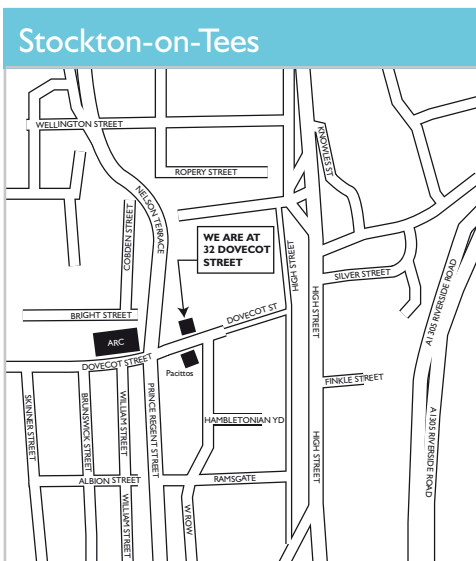
Appointments are also available at local offices in Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees, Guisborough, Darlington, Peterlee, Newton Aycliffe, Northallerton and Catterick. All initial telephone enquiries should be made through our Middlesbrough office on 01642 222967.



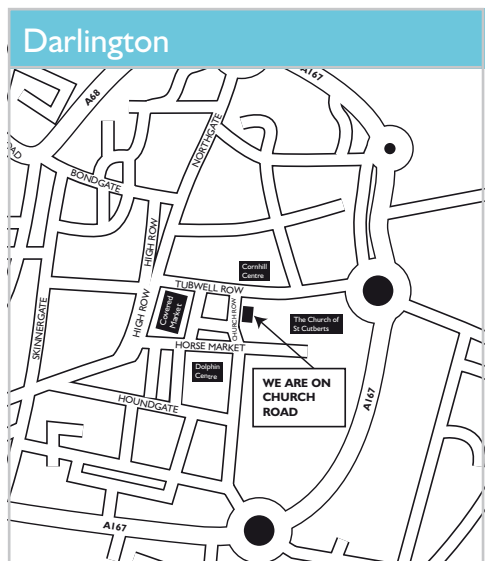
St. Mary's Centre, 82/90 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 2RW



25K Youth Centre, Ayton Drive, Roseberry Square, Redcar TS10 4EW



Five Lamps, 32 Dovecot Street, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1LN



Evolution, Church Row, Darlington DL1 5QD