



Family Law Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 27

PART II

DIVORCE AND SEPARATION

Resolution of disputes

13 Directions with respect to mediation

- (1) After the court has received a statement, it may give a direction requiring each party to attend a meeting arranged in accordance with the direction for the purpose—
 - (a) of enabling an explanation to be given of the facilities available to the parties for mediation in relation to disputes between them; and
 - (b) of providing an opportunity for each party to agree to take advantage of those facilities.
- (2) A direction may be given at any time, including in the course of proceedings connected with the breakdown of the marriage (as to which see section 25).
- (3) A direction may be given on the application of either of the parties or on the initiative of the court.
- (4) The parties are to be required to attend the same meeting unless—
 - (a) one of them asks, or both of them ask, for separate meetings; or
 - (b) the court considers separate meetings to be more appropriate.
- (5) A direction shall—
 - (a) specify a person chosen by the court (with that person's agreement) to arrange and conduct the meeting or meetings; and
 - (b) require such person as may be specified in the direction to produce to the court, at such time as the court may direct, a report stating—
 - (i) whether the parties have complied with the direction; and
 - (ii) if they have, whether they have agreed to take part in any mediation.