

Cynthia & Jevaun

Names: Cynthia and Jevaun*

Age: 36 and 39

Service: Family Mediation

Background

Cynthia and Jevaun were referred to our service for an initial MIAM. Jevaun who had recently moved to the UK, wished to establish a relationship with his daughter Ellie, aged 7. We were advised that Jevaun last had contact with Ellie five years previous.



*Names have been changed to protect the identify of the child and their family. Stock Image.

What we did

Following their MIAM appointment which was held separately, Cynthia stated that she would not be comfortable attending the sessions together with Jevaun. We therefore held all sessions under a 'shuttle' arrangement, which ensured Cynthia and Jevaun did not meet directly. In total, we facilitated four sessions with Cynthia and Jevaun. Cynthia was reluctant to agree to Jevaun having any contact with Ellie, given they had not seen each other for over five years when Ellie was just two years old. Cynthia stated that she had not heard from Jevaun in that time either and did not feel comfortable leaving Ellie in his care. Following the four mediation sessions, Cynthia agreed to Jevaun having supervised contact with Ellie, where she could be supported in a safe environment and Jevaun given the opportunity to demonstrate his commitment to maintaining a regular and consistent relationship with his daughter. Jevaun and Ellie were both supported through this stage by the family contact service, where a communication book was also setup to initiate a form of communication between both parents.

Outcomes

Through our mediation service, both Cynthia and Jevaun were able to avoid court proceedings and reach an agreement together that they both felt was fair. Cynthia's concerns were addressed and managed effectively through the family contact service. Regular supervised contact arrangements were made, along with an effective communication book, which later helped improve Cynthia and Jevaun's co-parenting relationship. Contact sessions remained positive throughout and Cynthia and Jevaun's relationship continued to develop, as did the relationship between Ellie and her father. Cynthia and Jevaun later decided to manage their own contact arrangements and were discharged from our service shortly after. Ellie is now in regular contact with Jevaun and is benefiting from a relationship with both her parents.



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