

Flowchart for Children Act 1989 application

In an emergency situation you can apply for an urgent hearing with or without notice to the other party

Parties are encouraged to attend mediation, where an agreement could be reached preventing the need for court action

Seek advice from a solicitor

Attend Mediation Information & Assessment Meeting (MIAM) (unless exemption applies)

Make an application using form C100 (and C1A if necessary) (court fee payable)

Court to serve application and directions to be issued

Safeguarding checks carried out by Cafcass

First Hearing Dispute Resolution Appointment (FHDA) (court may make an interim order)

Section 7 reports (if necessary) by Cafcass or Social Services

Dispute Resolution hearing (DRA) (court may make interim order)

Scott schedule of allegations/statement prepared if there is fact finding hearing

Fact finding hearing (if necessary, may be combined with Final Hearing)

Parties exchange final narrative statements

Final Hearing

Consider how you will pay for your legal fees.
If you believe you may be entitled to Legal Aid please note that there are strict and narrow criteria for eligibility. Teelan & Silwal Family Law Limited do not deal with publicly funded (Legal Aid) cases but can recommend a Legal Aid solicitor to you, should you be eligible.

Cafcass will speak to each party (and sometimes to the children)

Attended by the parties and Cafcass

Cafcass will speak in more detail to the parties and the children

There may be a pre-trial review hearing before the fact finding or Final Hearing

