

St.Mary's

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FAMILY LAW SPECIALISTS

# Family Arbitration

A guide to the Arbitration services  
we offer



# What is it?

Family arbitration is a form of private dispute resolution in which the parties enter into an agreement under which they appoint an arbitrator to adjudicate upon a dispute and make an Award/Determination to resolve their dispute.

Family arbitration is ideal for those who want to resolve their disagreement without delay, confidentially and without all the expense and challenges of the court process.

There are two types of family arbitration:

- **Financial Scheme**
- **Children Scheme**



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# Why choose arbitration?



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Family arbitration is a viable alternative to the court process and can help resolve disputes without the delays, expense and challenges that the court process can bring.

- It is completely confidential.
- It is flexible and takes place at a time, format and venue that the parties agree to, giving the parties more control than in court proceedings and avoiding the risk of hearings being removed from the list at short notice.
- It can be dealt with quickly with the parties able to have their dispute resolved quicker than through the court process.
- It is versatile and the parties can decide whether the case should be decided on documents, via remote hearings or in-person hearings.
- The parties can choose their own arbitrator and can appoint an expert in the area of law which their dispute pertains.
- It is focused as the parties can decide what they want the arbitrator to decide on.
- It can save parties costs.
- At the end of the arbitration there will be a decision which resolves the dispute, and the parties can apply to the court for an order to be made.



# What is the process?

The process for both the Children and Financial scheme are broadly similar and is explained in the flow chart on the next page.

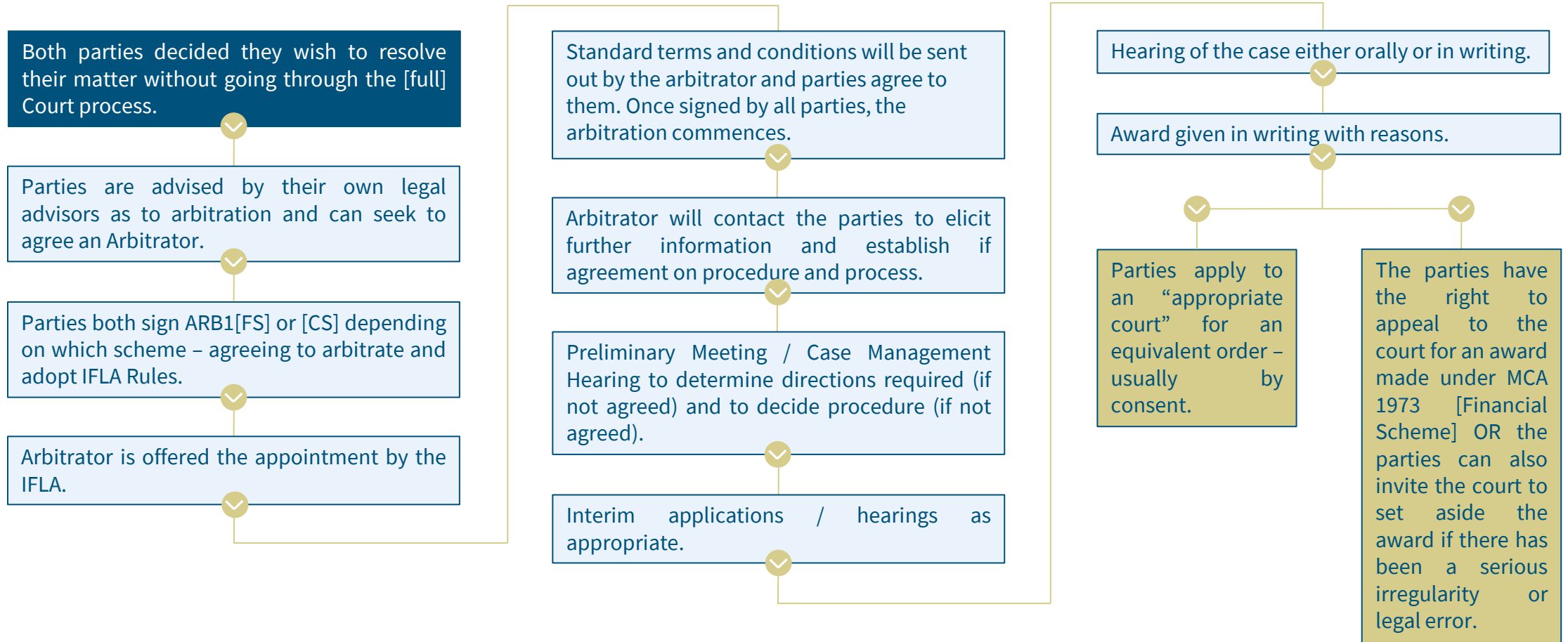
Both schemes require the parties to complete the ARB1 form as explained on the next page. These are available to download from the Institute of Family Law Arbitrators website and are linked below:

[ARB1CS \(Children Scheme\)](#)

[ARB1FS \(Financial Scheme\)](#)



## Family Arbitration



# What are the costs?

These are indicative fees for 2022. For a tailored quote please contact us.

## Financial Scheme

**£750 + VAT** for any preliminary hearing under 3 hours

**£1,500 + VAT** for any preliminary hearing in excess of 3 hours

**£3,000 + VAT** for a 1-Day arbitration hearing, with one A4 bundle of papers not exceeding 350 pages, to include the hearing of evidence, submissions and the writing of the award

**£500 + VAT** for each additional A4 bundle of papers (maximum 350 pages per bundle) to be considered at the arbitration

**£1,500 + VAT** for each additional day required for the arbitration up and above 1 day

## Children Scheme

**£395 + VAT** for a preliminary hearing conducted remotely

**£950 + VAT** for a substantive hearing up to ½ Day in duration

**£1,495 + VAT** for a substantive hearing up to 1 Day in duration

**£495 + VAT** for a determination writing





# Additional costs

In many cases arbitration is a cost-saving exercise. It can avoid the significant costs involved in the court process which can quickly escalate, particularly with hearings being adjourned at short notice.

The fees for our arbitrators will always be a fixed cost which we will advise you of upfront. There may be additional costs for venue hire if the parties choose to hold the arbitration at a venue other than our offices, but this can be agreed upon between the parties in advance.

Just like in the court process there will be additional fees for experts, if the arbitrator determines that an expert is required, and the parties will have their own legal representation costs too.



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We have a modern, purpose-built office in Nottingham City Centre with the facilities to host arbitrations at no additional cost.

We can also conduct arbitrations remotely.

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# Our Arbitrators



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# Gareth Jacques

## Financial Scheme Arbitrator

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# Matthew O'Grady

## Children Scheme Arbitrator

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Private FDR

# Fiona Apthorpe

Fiona is a partner at Geldards where she heads up the family team. She is an experienced family law solicitor, family mediator, family arbitrator, collaborative family lawyer and sits as a Deputy District Judge. Fiona is known and respected for her down to earth, friendly and pragmatic approach to all aspects of her work.



For more information about  
our Arbitration service:



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