

Asya Panchalieva – Family Mediator

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Areas of expertise

- Division of financial assets following divorce including complex matrimonial finances with particular specialism in supporting military families, public sector pensions, family Trusts and businesses
- Arrangements for children such as contact arrangements, disputes about choice of school, division of holiday time
- Disputes about relocation including internal (England and Wales) and external (abroad) relocation
- Complex children cases involving step-parent parental responsibility, non-accidental injuries, neglect and other safeguarding concerns including Local Authority involvement
- Cases involving domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour, financial and sexual abuse
- Special Guardianship Orders obtained by family members
- Grandparents' applications for a child arrangements order
- Emergency applications relating to children and family protection
- Cohabitation disputes (unmarried couples)
- High conflict disputes involving any and all family members

Experience and Qualifications

Asya is a Senior Associate and Mediator. Asya qualified as a solicitor in 2010 and became a Resolution-qualified family mediator in 2024. Asya is accredited by Resolution as a private law children disputes and complex lower income financial remedies specialist.

Asya is bi-lingual and speaks fluent Bulgarian. She also understands spoken Russian and has a detailed knowledge of various Eastern European cultures and legislations, having studied law in Bulgaria before studying and qualifying as a Solicitor of England and Wales.

Alongside her mediation practice, Asya has extensive experience advising and representing military clients, recognising the unique pressures they face, including deployment, relocation, Army pensions, and the impact of service life on relationships and parenting arrangements. Having worked in the field of public children law before, Asya has a wealth of knowledge in all matters concerning Children Services' involvement, working with parents who have addiction problems, mental health issues and neurodiverse traits.

About

Asya's approach is tailored, practical, and sensitive to each person's challenges. She aims to help clients reach workable, child-focused agreements in a confidential and non-adversarial setting. Asya is also very passionate about the voice of the child especially when young people are involved. Children have the right to be heard. She regularly assists with issues including child arrangements, financial matters, and co-parenting communication, ensuring that outcomes reflect both legal considerations and the realities of life.

Asya's top tip for mediation is to come with an open mind. Mediation is not about winning or losing - it is about finding solutions that work for everyone. Whether it is financial or children matters that you are bringing to mediation, if you come willing to listen and are open to exploring all options, the process will be smoother and your chances of achieving a resolution will be greater.

Case studies

Case study one:

Asya mediated a dispute between separated parents concerning arrangements for their children and finances. The father had suffered an injury due to a car accident and had received a substantial pay out which formed the majority of the matrimonial wealth. This, however, had left him with a brain injury resulting in some cognitive difficulties including learning and speaking English. This also affected his earning capacity. The parents both spoke Russian and with the help of an interpreter for the father, they were able to mediate and discuss various arrangements. Communication between the parties was difficult. Through a series of mediation sessions, Asya was able to help the parents focus on their children's needs, explore practical options and housing scenarios and improve communication. The parties were able to agree some issues but not all.

Case study two:

Asya assisted a separating couple with complex financial issues involving a property in Swanage held in a family Trust on the husband's side and multiple inherited properties in Portugal on the wife's side held together with her brother and father, as well as establishing valuations of gold coins collections. The parties were both in their late 50s, with grown up children. They both wanted to avoid Court proceedings and to achieve an amicable settlement. They both had to obtain valuation evidence, Portuguese documents concerning the inheritance, gold coins value and comparables and other relevant financial documents, including advice from their financial advisor. Asya was able to facilitate constructive discussions between them and although some sessions were emotional and difficult for them both, after a number of joint sessions, they were able to reach an overall financial settlement which they were both happy with and considered fair and reasonable.