

John Fisher

Civil, Commercial and Family Mediator



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An accredited mediator since 2020, John has experience of working in a wide range of sectors across the UK – construction, IT and insurance as a senior business leader. He is quick to build rapport, good at listening and developing conversations to improve understanding.

Areas of Expertise

- General commercial/ contractual
- Construction and engineering
- Insurance
- Family
- Neighbourhood

Approach to Mediation

John prepares before the day of mediation by analysing the paperwork to gain an understanding of the issues. This allows him to focus on building rapport, assisting the parties to identify the issues and their key outcomes on the day of mediation.

John is impartial, flexible, has a proactive approach and is not afraid to comment or feedback where it will help.

If there is no settlement on the day, John is happy to continue working with the parties if required.

Accreditation and Panel Membership

- Civil Mediation Council – Accredited member
- Association of Northern Mediators (ANM) – Panel member
- Yorkshire Mediation Services – Mediator
- Family Mediation Council – Family mediator

Example of Recent Cases

Shareholder dispute – between business partners of 20 years relationship, where one partner was a significant major shareholder. Heads of terms agreed on the day of mediation and settlement subsequently finalised.

Construction Contract – non-payment of invoice, agreement was reached, and payment subsequently received.

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Neighbourhood dispute – complex boundary dispute which involved three parties resolving parking and access rights. In addition, I was able to use my engineering skills, to peg out the boundaries and options on the ground, for all to understand the implications and adjust.

Family, children access agreement – helped a parent to see the benefit to their own work life balance by allowing the other parent to become involved in sharing the parental responsibilities – agreement was reached.

Client Feedback

“John got us talking, something we hadn’t done for some time. He helped us air our frustrations in a civil and orderly way and got us to an agreement far quicker than we could have anticipated.”

“John’s involvement was a revelation to move things forward. He was calm, considered and above all fair. He allowed both parties to focus on the 'important stuff' and not to get hung up on the less relevant and unimportant.”

“John is a skilled mediator, he has a very calming presence but he will not allow discussions to drift off track, he keeps all parties focussed.”

“Thank you, John, for offering your professional skills, knowledge and time in steering us away from a potential minefield of hostility.”

Professional Qualifications and Affiliations

- Accredited CMC civil and commercial mediator, 2020
- Family mediator (URN: 1750T)
- Call 2020, The Honourable Middle Temple
- Postgraduate Diploma, Professional Training for the Bar, 2020
- Graduate Diploma in Law, 2016
- Master’s in Business Administration, 2008
- Chartered Civil Engineer, member The Institution of Civil Engineers, 1995
- Master’s in International Construction Management, 1994
- Degree civil engineering, 1989

Professional History

2009 – today: Optimus – business owner – mediator, management consultant, coach and trainer

1999 – 2009: Senior business leader within the building repairs division of Cunningham Lindsey

1989 – today: Civil engineer