

Mediation Week 2024

The Splendor of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Family Court

Date: 9 May 2024 (Thursday)

Time: 10:00 am – 12:15 pm

Co-organisers: Department of Justice and Judiciary

**Venue: Function Hall, 1/F, Justice Place, 18 Lower Albert Road, Central,
Hong Kong**

Mode: Hybrid

(The event will be conducted in Cantonese, with simultaneous interpretation in Putonghua and English)

2 CPD Points are awarded from the Law Society of Hong Kong, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited, Hong Kong Mediation Centre, Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Mediation Centre, Financial Dispute Resolution Centre and International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute.

The Judiciary has implemented the Family Masters System since October 2023. Prior to this, the Judiciary has explored various ADR mechanisms for handling family court cases. Some of them were incorporated with elements of mediation.

In family proceedings, Financial Dispute Resolution (“FDR”) and Children Dispute Resolution (“CDR”) are procedures introduced since 2003 and 2012 respectively. In spite of the uniqueness between mediation and FDR / CDR, the court saw the potential for synergy by having a mediator within the process of FDR / CDR. In this light, Mediator-assisted FDR (“M-FDR”) / Mediator-assisted CDR (“M-CDR”) has been introduced in Family Court since 2019. It is a model of a continuous alternative dispute resolution process running in parallel with litigation, which have been proven to be effective in dealing with the financial and child issues in a matrimonial case.

The Judiciary has just launched a new pilot scheme namely Family Court-annexed Mediation Scheme (“FCMAS”) for a period of two years starting from March 2024. Freelance duty mediators, being engaged as service providers, would provide mediation service for suitable court cases involving litigants-in-person on both sides with less financial resources. The new pilot scheme plans to assist the parties to settle their disputes timely and effectively by adopting a collaborative approach among the Judges/Masters in Family Court (“Presiding Judicial Officers”), the Integrated Mediation Office IMO and family mediators at the court premises.

Time	Activity
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome Remarks by Moderator Ms April Lam Chief Judiciary Executive (Mediation Affairs) of the Judiciary
10:05 – 10:35	Implementation of Family Court Master System and Mediator-assisted Financial Dispute Resolution (MFDR) & Mediator-assisted Child Dispute Resolution (MCDR) in Family Court Sharing the updates of Family Court Master System and MFDR/MCDR HH Judge CK Chan Principal Family Court Judge
10:35 – 10:55	Experience sharing from the angle of a Family Mediator in Mediator-assisted Financial Dispute Resolution / Mediator-assisted Child Dispute Resolution Ms Amy Lam Family Mediator / Family Mediation Supervisor
10:55 – 11:55	Overview of conducting family cases under Family Court-annexed Mediation Scheme (FCAMS) Master Bryan Lung Family Court
11:55 – 12:05	Closing Remarks The Hon Mr Justice Johnson Lam PJ Chairman of the Judiciary's Working Party on Mediation
12:05 – 12:15	Q & A

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