

INTRODUCTION

Matrimonial litigation can be long, expensive and exert a significant emotional toll on the parties involved. Mediation empowers parties to potentially reconcile all issues including but not limited to finances and custody without relying on the complexities and confrontational nature of the traditional litigation system.

The Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC) has developed the Matrimonial Mediation Scheme to help parties involved in matrimonial cases resolve such disputes amicably.

Couples who are going through divorce or separation may have to resolve complicated issues in the dispute. Such issues may include custody of children, spousal maintenance, division of family assets and other financial matters arising from the breakdown of the relationship.

The Matrimonial Mediation Scheme is designed specifically to assist couples to resolve these issues. Divorce does not need to destroy someone financially or emotionally.

The aims of the SMC Matrimonial Mediation Scheme are to:

- Encourage a constructive and conciliatory approach to the resolution of matrimonial disputes
- Resolve matrimonial disputes in an effective and timely way
- Reduce emotional turmoil and ensure that proceedings are fair and just for all parties involved
- Ensure that costs are kept affordable for parties

BENEFITS

Other than the highly qualified and skilled Principal Mediators on the SMC panel, SMC has accredited experienced Family Law Practitioners as SMC Associate Mediators for the Matrimonial Mediation Scheme.

SMC offer parties more time on mediations. SMC mediators will set aside at least one full day to help parties resolve their differences. By investing fully in the mediation process, the potential to obtain solutions that bring about peaceful resolution for the parties can be obtained.

About 75% of the cases mediated in SMC result in settlement, and more than 90% of these cases are settled within a day.



FEES

SMC's usual mediation fees are pegged to the quantum of claim and start from \$963 (including 7% GST) per party per day. For example, for a disputed quantum between \$1 and \$2.5 million, the fees are \$2,782 (including 7% GST) per party per day.

Matrimonial cases may involve large sums because of the family assets involved. For the Matrimonial Mediation Scheme, a special discounted rate as follows applies:

Mediation Fee:	\$2,140 regardless of quantum per party per day <i>(including 7% GST)</i>
Admin Fee:	\$267.50 per party <i>(including 7% GST)</i>

With the high chance of settlement, control over the outcome, an opportunity to discuss issues in a non-confrontational manner, the savings of cost and time, and without further damage to relationships, mediation is the way to go for matrimonial cases.

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