**Family Mediation West - Commitment to Child Focused Mediation**

**PARENTS ARE ASKED TO:**

Work together as far as possible to bring about a conclusion, which takes into account their individual needs, and those of the children.

Respect the mediation process by not cancelling 3 or more appointments consecutively – should this happen the mediation will be suspended and may cease altogether.

Be respectful of each other as parents and listen to all points of view. Leave fault and blame out of the discussion.

Recognise and respect the confidentiality of all parties and the process. Not make any recordings and not use mobile phones during the session (with the exception of taking part in a Zoom mediation).

Not take photographs, still images or use instant messaging during a Zoom mediation. No persons, other than those arranged will be present during mediation.

Ensure computer equipment/devices used for a Zoom mediation are not located near a device which may pick up conversations e.g. Alexa, Amazon Echo.

Recognise the continuing responsibility of parents after separation.

Notify each other and FMW of Scotland at least one working day in advance if one or both is unable to keep a scheduled appointment.

**MEDIATORS WILL:**

Help parents to communicate effectively, focus on the issues and look to the future. Not take sides in a dispute, make decisions on behalf of others or give legal or other advice.

Make participants aware mediation is voluntary. The mediator may stop mediation if appropriate.

Not give information to any third party. All verbal or written communications within mediation are confidential and not admissible as evidence in any court proceedings about the same issues.

**Stop the session if a child is thought to be at risk of serious harm and further action may be taken as required.**

***Occasionally the mediator may be observed in a session for training purposes. The same level of confidentiality will be maintained and permission will be sought before this happens.***

NB.

FMWEST reserve the right to withdraw any part of our service provision when we deem it appropriate to do so.

**I have read and understood the above:**

**Name: Signed:**

**Name: Signed:**

**Date:**