

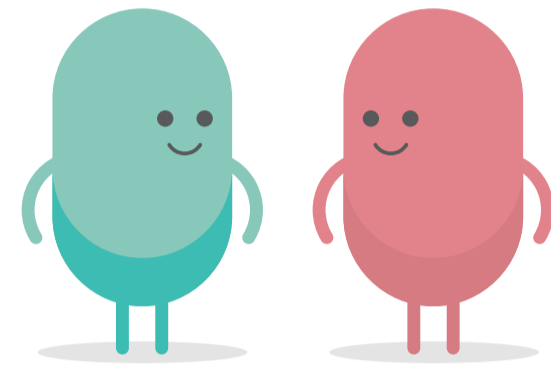
The different ways to separate: compared by cost, time and type

Which could be best for you?

to find out.

DIY Agreement

You and your ex-partner reach a Separation Agreement by yourselves. It can be a good idea to ask a Lawyer to review your draft agreement.



\$175 – \$2.5K per person



2 – 8 weeks

Works for couples who:

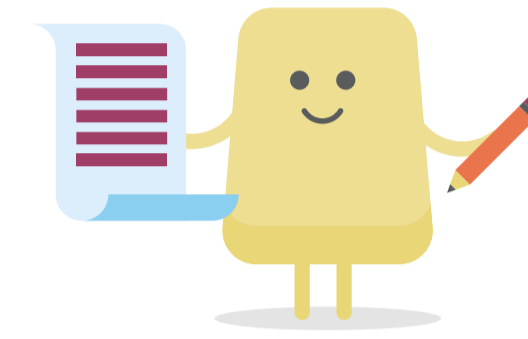
- are amicable
- can communicate well
- trust each other
- understand what 'fairness' means in family law
- have no history of family violence

Not a good option where:

- there's a power imbalance
- undisclosed information could lead to an unfair settlement

Guided Separation

You and your ex-partner engage one legally-qualified Mediator to help you reach an agreement.



From \$2.5K per person + Court Order costs



2 – 10 weeks

Works for couples who:

- are amicable
- can communicate reasonably well
- trust each other
- have no history of family violence

FYI:

- The Mediator is not on anyone's side. They work with both people to help them reach a fair outcome.
- Because they are legally-qualified, they can answer questions about the law.
- If couples cannot come to an agreement, Independent Legal Advice may be needed.

Independent Legal Advice

You and your ex-partner engage your own Lawyers to negotiate an agreement on your behalf.



\$3K – \$20K per person



8 – 26 weeks

Works for couples who:

- are not amicable
- can't come to an agreement on their own terms
- don't trust each other to be honest about finances
- have a complex settlement
- still want to keep their settlement out of Court

FYI:

- Some Lawyers may extend negotiations. This could cost you more time and money. Seek out a Lawyer who is focussed on de-escalation and cost transparency.

Decision by the Court

You, your ex-partner and your Lawyers head to Court for an outcome. A Judge will make decisions about financial and parenting matters.



\$40K+ per person



78 weeks+

Works for couples who:

- cannot separate through any of the above methods
- have a history of domestic violence

FYI:

- You will need to prove to the Court that you have tried to separate through other means.
- A Judge will determine the outcome of your separation.

There is no right or wrong way to separate. However, people should aim for the least time-consuming and stressful process that can also lead to a fair and equitable outcome.

| | DIY Agreement | Guided Separation | Independent Legal Advice | Court |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| The Separation Guide free resources | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| DIY video series | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Free initial consultation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Access to a Lawyer | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Legal advice | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Independent legal representation | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Getting on the Same Page Document | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Financial disclosure | ✗ | ✓* | ✓** | ✓** |
| Separation Agreement template | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Legal sign-off and Court orders | ✗*** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Lodgement | ✗*** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Costs are based on average time frames and will vary based on amicability and complexity of the separation. All price and time frames quoted are indicative and represent the average matter fees and time frames disclosed from our network members.

*The extent of financial disclosure may vary, as agreed and discussed by the amicable couple.

**More extensive financial disclosure may be required for these outcomes.

***Required for any agreement to be legally binding.