



"I'm very interested in how people will communicate - **because they might reach an agreement and have a plan that says Chris will drop Bobby off** at a certain time, but the child's needs and the parents' lives will evolve and they will have to work together to manage the changes."

"I've done mediations where people want to talk about only a few details and some where they **have not spoken to each other for months or years**. There are cases where one parent wants to relocate, where parents want different names for their children, and people disagreeing over which school their child will attend."

"Sometimes a child is the result of a one night stand and the parents **have never conversed about parenting**. They are starting from scratch; mediation is their very first step towards co-parenting."

Amy also provides mediation for parties who are already involved in the Family Court process.

"It can be very useful for the family and for the Court. It can narrow issues down and give the parents a **better idea of what could be discussed in Court**. Also, if the only communication between parents is reading each other's affidavits, that can be very hurtful."

Amy spends time with each party individually before any joint mediation.

"I believe that's one of the most important parts - **giving people a chance to say what is going on for them** helps them to take another step in processing their anger and hurt. It's about **working with people to help them out of the groove they are in**, shifting out of an entrenched point of view to focusing on the wellbeing of the child."

"FDR gives people a chance to take control of their own lives, their own decision making and to **converse with the other parent about how their newly shaped family is going to move forward**. Often parents will reach an agreement. But even if they don't, they have still engaged in a process where they are communicating in new ways and that is the first step towards getting a successful outcome in the future."



Amy Oberkircher

### ***How Family Dispute Resolution can help you***

Family Dispute Resolution will have the right fit for your family, with over 80 accredited mediators around New Zealand.

Many families are entitled to 12 hours of fully-funded Family Dispute Resolution services.

*Get in touch with Amy and the Family Dispute Resolution team to find out more.*

**Phone 0800 774 420.**

**Website [Family Dispute Resolution webpage](#)**