



Elizabeth Francis

Mediator since 2002

Civil Mediation Council Associate Mediator

Specialist areas: Clinical negligence

Elizabeth is mediator, accredited by the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR), and a highly ranked barrister of 20 years' experience.

She is skilled at quickly building trust and rapport with all involved, handling emotions, and understanding the varying positions of all parties, lay or professional, whilst maintaining a respectful, optimistic and flexible attitude. She is impartial and proactive in her approach.

She is able to quickly grasp the contentious issues, to ask the right questions, and to persevere when things get tough.

Elizabeth's mediation experience and training includes a wide variety of clinical negligence mediations, and also professional negligence, contractual disputes, inheritance disputes, defective building work and sale of goods and services.

In her career as a barrister she has represented both claimants and defendants in clinical negligence claims, including high value, complex and multiple party cases, and frequently represents parties in meetings with independent medical experts, and at mediations, joint settlement meetings, trials and inquests, both in person and online.

She has experience in representing nurses and midwives at inquests and NMC Fitness to Practice hearings and has attended hearings before the General Medical Council and Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

She also provides training sessions for medico-legal expert agencies and solicitors.

Mediation Training and Observations:

- CEDR Civil and Commercial Mediator Accreditation 2021
- JR v T. NHS FT – Clinical negligence – 28/6/2024 – observation with Paul Balen
- AW v SR – Contractual dispute (domestic building work) – 18/4/24 – observation with Henry Minto
- A v B – Inheritance / disputed will – 16/10/23 – observation with David Isbister
- CEDR Mock Mediation for Observation Development – 20/9/23
- W v JIPS & HG – Professional negligence (solicitor & barrister) – 28/6/22 – observation with Kevin Smyth

Memberships:

- CEDR
- Civil Mediation Council – Associate Mediator
- Society of Mediators
- APIL

Medical Experience:

Elizabeth is experienced and knowledgeable in all areas of medical practice including:

- Obstetric and midwifery claims – antenatal care, maternal injuries, still births, neonatal deaths, birth injuries including cerebral palsy.
- Gynaecology – mesh, lost fertility, USA v UK surrogacy claims, menopause.
- Orthopaedics – fractures, joint replacements, infection, spinal surgeries.
- Oncology – delayed diagnosis, treatment regimens, palliative care, complex causation issues.
- General Practice – delayed referrals of all types, prescribing errors.
- Gastrointestinal issues – inflammatory bowel diseases, IBS, peritonitis, gastroparesis, cancers.
- Nephrology – polycystic kidney disease, CKD, dialysis, kidney transplants.
- Neurology / Neurosurgery – strokes, brain tumour, TBI, epilepsy, cauda equina.
- Anaesthetics and Intensive Care – tracheotomies, ICU related PTSD, resuscitation.
- Geriatrics / care homes – falls, pressure sores, malnutrition, dementia care. Psychiatry, CAMHS, PICU and suicide prevention.
- Medication errors – toxicology, side effects, steroids, benzodiazepine withdrawal.
- Nursing / ANP / ENP – community, GP surgery, A&E, ward based, care home.
- Ambulance service – paramedics, air ambulance, critical care transfers.
- Ophthalmology – visual loss, blindness, eye prosthesis, eye surgery & anaesthesia.
- ENT – adult and paediatric cholesteatoma management, hearing loss.
- Podiatry – diabetic foot management, amputation, prostheses.

- Pain – chronic pain, fibromyalgia, CRPS, psychosomatic pain, phantom pain.
- Dentistry / Orthodontics – periodontal disease, oral cancer, root canal treatment.
- Plastic surgery – cosmetic procedures, skin grafting, gender affirmation.
- Fatal Accidents Act 1976 and LR(MP)A 1934 claims including dependency claims.

Testimonials

Elizabeth is uniquely analytical, a sharp mind that never seems to stop thinking.'

'Elizabeth has a great eye for detail, an excellent understanding of the law around clinical negligence claims and a fabulous work ethic – always happy to help.'

Contact: Registrar@TrustMediation.org.uk