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We cannot provide legal advice or issue MIAM certificates. [Find an FMC-accredited mediator](#)

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# MIAM Certificate

Your MIAM certificate (Form FM1) proves you have attended a Mediation Information Assessment Meeting. It is required before the court will process your family court application. This guide covers everything from costs and validity to what the certificate looks like.

**FM1**

Form Name

**4 Months**

Valid For

**£90-£150**

MIAM Cost (cert free)

**FMC Only**

Who Issues It



Download MIAM Certificate Guide (PDF)

## What is a MIAM Certificate?

IMPORTANT: Only FMC-accredited mediators can issue valid MIAM certificates.

For mediation services: [familymediationcouncil.org.uk/find-local-mediator](https://familymediationcouncil.org.uk/find-local-mediator)

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A **MIAM certificate** (officially known as **Form FM1**) is the document that proves you have attended a Mediation Information Assessment Meeting. It is the key document you need before the court will process your **C100 family court application**.

The certificate is issued by an FMC-accredited mediator at the end of your MIAM. It records whether mediation was assessed as suitable, not suitable, or whether the other party refused to attend.

### MIAM certificate for court

Without a valid MIAM certificate or a valid **exemption**, the court will reject your C100 application. It is a mandatory requirement for all family court applications about children.

## What Does a MIAM Certificate Look Like?

The FM1 form is a **single-page document** that contains:

- ✓ **Mediator's details** - Full name, practice name, address, and FMC accreditation number
- ✓ **Applicant's details** - Your full name and address
- ✓ **Date of MIAM** - The date you attended the meeting
- ✓ **Outcome section** - Tick boxes indicating the result (see below)
- ✓ **Mediator's signature** - Confirming the information is accurate
- ✓ **FMC registration number** - Proving the mediator is accredited

The form is straightforward and does not contain any confidential details about what was discussed during your MIAM. It simply confirms attendance and the assessed outcome.

## MIAM Certificate Outcomes

The FM1 records one of these outcomes:

- ✓ **Mediation is suitable and both parties are willing** - You will proceed to full mediation sessions
- ✓ **Mediation is suitable but the other party will not attend** - You have fulfilled your obligation and can proceed to court
- ✓ **Mediation is not suitable** - Due to domestic abuse, power imbalance, or other factors. You can proceed to court
- ✓ **An exemption applies** - The mediator confirms a valid exemption exists

All of these outcomes satisfy the court's MIAM requirement. Even if mediation is "not suitable", having attended the MIAM and received the certificate means you have complied.

## How Much Does a MIAM Certificate Cost?

The MIAM certificate itself is **free** - it is included as part of your MIAM attendance. The costs are:

Item   Cost	----- -----	MIAM meeting fee   £90-£150	FM1 certificate   Included (free)
With Legal Aid	Completely free	Replacement certificate	£10-£25 (admin fee)

The £90-£150 covers the mediator's time for the 45-60 minute meeting AND the certificate. There is no separate charge for the FM1 form.

## Free MIAM certificates

You can get a free MIAM (and certificate) if you qualify for **legal aid**. You may be eligible if:

- ✓ You are a victim of domestic abuse (with evidence)
- ✓ Your income and capital are below certain thresholds
- ✓ You receive qualifying benefits

Ask the mediator about legal aid eligibility when you book.

## How Long is a MIAM Certificate Valid For?

A MIAM certificate is valid for **4 months** from the date of the MIAM meeting. This means you must submit your court application within 4 months of attending the MIAM.

## What happens if my MIAM certificate expires?

If your FM1 expires before you submit your **C100 form**:

- ✓ You must attend a **new MIAM**
- ✓ You must obtain a **new FM1 certificate**
- ✓ You will need to pay the MIAM fee again
- ✓ Contact your original mediator – they may offer a reduced fee for a repeat MIAM

### Don't let it expire

If you are not ready to apply to court but your certificate is approaching expiry, consider submitting your application before it expires. You can always negotiate or settle later. Alternatively, contact your mediator about a renewal.

## How Do I Get a MIAM Certificate?

- 1 Find an FMC-accredited mediator**  
Search the Family Mediation Council directory or contact a local mediation service. Ensure they are FMC-registered (essential for a valid FM1).
- 2 Book your MIAM appointment**  
Most mediators offer appointments within 1-2 weeks. MIAMs can be in-person or online via video call – both produce equally valid certificates.
- 3 Attend the meeting (45-60 minutes)**  
The mediator explains the mediation process, assesses suitability, and discusses your situation. You attend alone (the other party has a separate MIAM).
- 4 Receive your FM1 certificate**

The mediator issues your certificate the same day (or within a few days if posted).  
Keep the original safe.

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### Attach to your C100 application

Include the FM1 when you submit your C100 form to court. If applying online, upload a scan or photo. If by post, attach a copy.

## MIAM Certificate and the C100 Form

On **page 3** of the **C100 form**, you must provide your MIAM certificate details:

- ✓ The date of your MIAM
- ✓ The mediator's name and FMC registration number
- ✓ The outcome recorded on the FM1
- ✓ A copy of the certificate (attached)

If you have an **exemption** rather than a certificate, you declare this on the same page with supporting evidence.

## Who Can Issue a MIAM Certificate?

Only **FMC-accredited family mediators** can issue valid FM1 forms. This means:

- ✓ They must be registered with the Family Mediation Council
- ✓ They must hold a current practising certificate
- ✓ They have completed specialist family mediation training

The following **cannot** issue a valid MIAM certificate:

- ✓ Solicitors (even family law solicitors)
- ✓ Counsellors or therapists
- ✓ Workplace or commercial mediators
- ✓ AI assistants (including Miam)
- ✓ Non-accredited mediators

## What if the Other Party Won't Attend?

This is one of the most common concerns. Here is what happens:

- ✓ You attend your own MIAM as normal
- ✓ The mediator contacts the other party to invite them
- ✓ If they refuse or don't respond, the mediator records this on your FM1
- ✓ Your certificate is still valid for court
- ✓ The court notes that you tried mediation but the other party refused
- ✓ The court may direct the other party to attend a MIAM later in proceedings

The other party's refusal does **not** prevent you from applying to court.

## Online MIAM Certificates

Many mediators now offer MIAMs by **video call**. Online MIAMs:

- ✓ Are just as valid as in-person meetings
- ✓ Produce the same FM1 certificate
- ✓ Are often quicker to book (no travel)
- ✓ The certificate is sent electronically (PDF) or by post
- ✓ Can be more convenient if you have childcare or work commitments

## What if I Lose My MIAM Certificate?

If you lose your FM1:

- ✓ Contact the mediator who issued it
- ✓ They keep records and can issue a duplicate
- ✓ There may be a small admin fee (£10-£25)
- ✓ The replacement has the same date and details as the original

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Prepare Before Your MIAM

Being prepared helps you get the most from your MIAM meeting. Our AI assistant can help you organise your thoughts and priorities before you attend.

[Prepare with Miam \(Free\)](#)

[Learn About MIAMs](#)



**AI Preparation Tool:** Miam helps you prepare for your MIAM but cannot provide legal advice or issue certificates. Only [FMC-accredited mediators](#) can do that.

## Related Guides

### What is a MIAM?

What is a MIAM? Learn what a Mediation Information Assessment Meeting is, what MIAM stands for, whether it is compulsory, what happens during the meeting, how to arrange one, costs, and how to...

### C100 Form Guide

Everything you need to know about the C100 form - how to apply online or by post to family court for a Child Arrangements Order. Includes costs, MIAM requirements, timelines, emergency applications,...

### MIAM Exemptions: When You Don't Need Mediation

Complete guide to MIAM exemptions in England & Wales. Learn if you qualify for exemption due to domestic abuse, urgency, or other valid reasons. Free guidance.

## Mediation Costs UK: How Much Does Mediation Cost?

Complete guide to mediation costs in the UK. Learn how much MIAM and family mediation cost, who pays, and how to get free mediation through legal aid or the voucher scheme.

## FM1 Form Guide

Complete guide to the FM1 form (MIAM certificate). Learn what it is, what it looks like, who can issue it, what the different outcomes mean, and how it relates to your C100 court application.