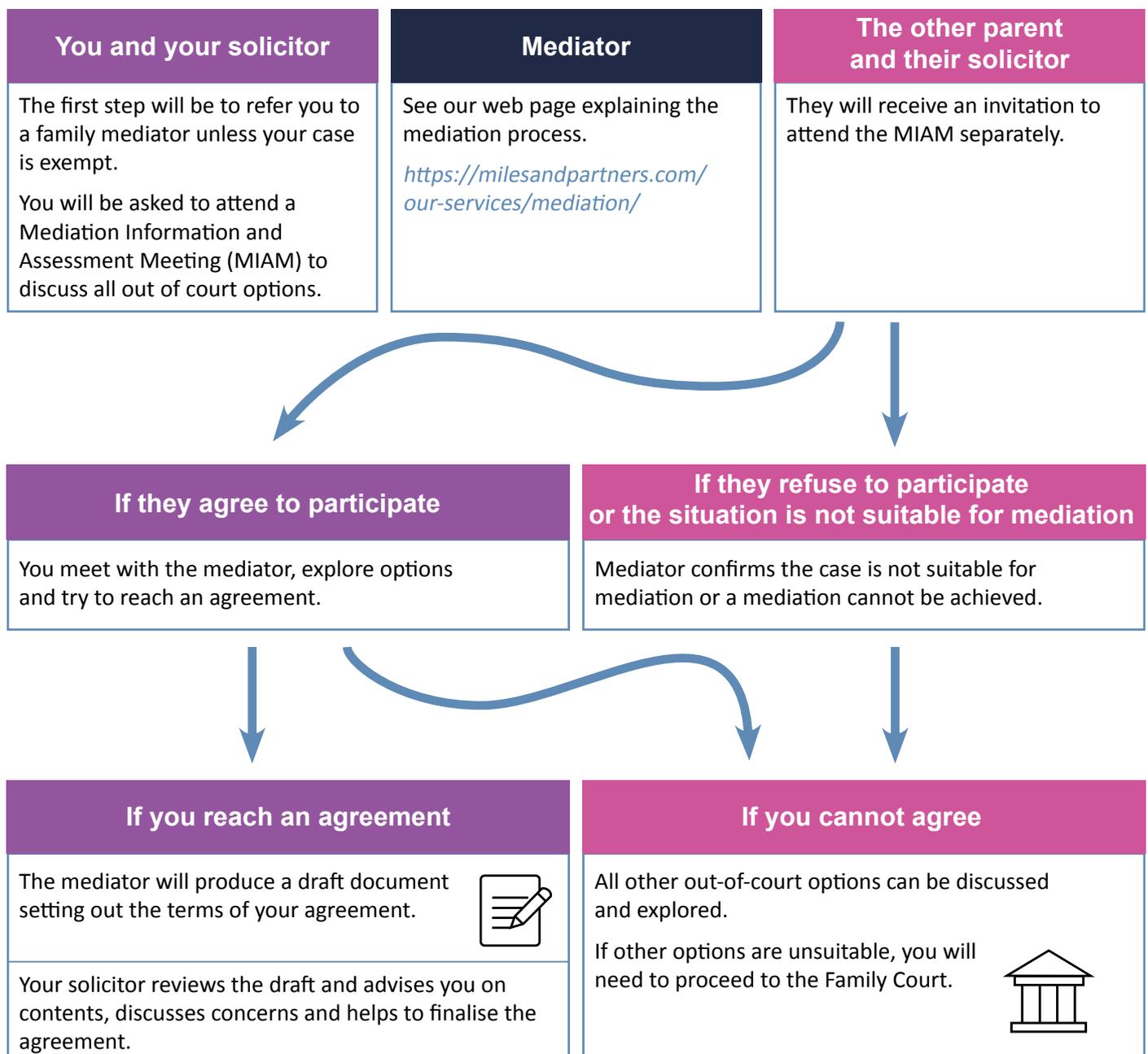


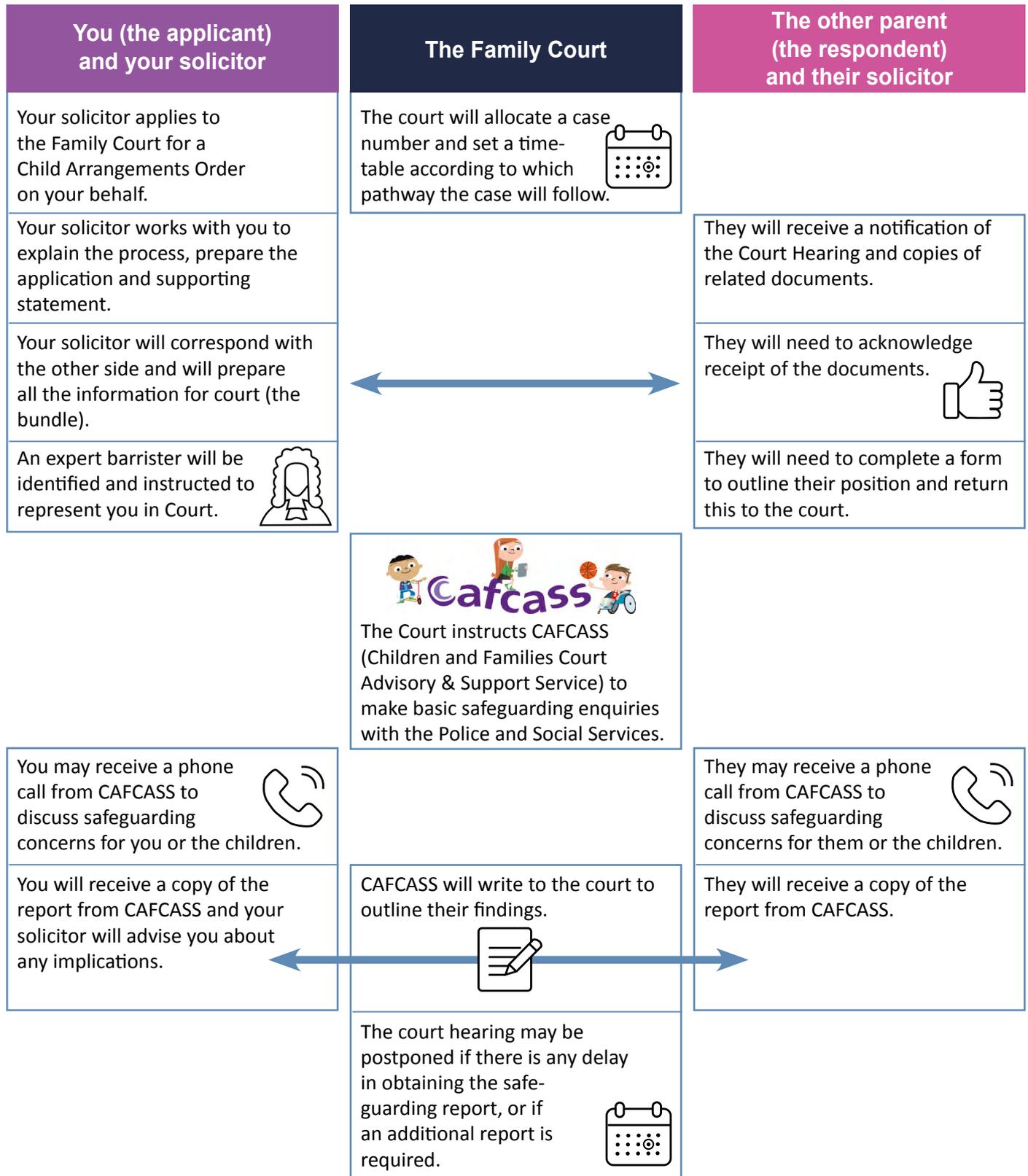
Child arrangement orders and the family court process

If you are unable to spend time with your child or children, and it has not been possible to resolve the situation via negotiation, then it is possible to apply to the Family Court for a Child Arrangements Order, as long as a Local Authority Social Services team has not started a court case because of child protection concerns.

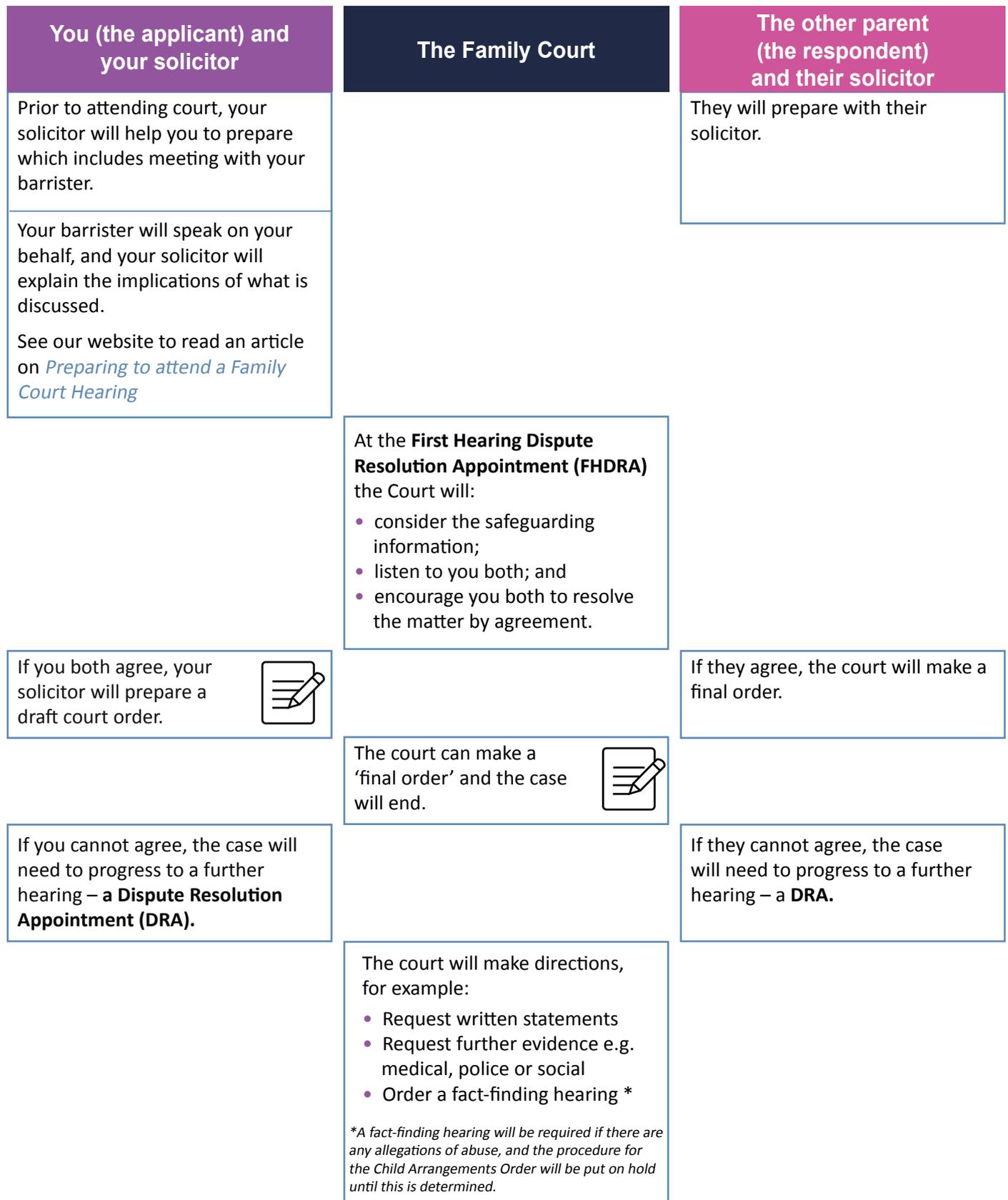
This flow chart provides a simplified overview of the court process. However, each case is different and your solicitor at Miles and Partners will guide you through it in more detail.



The family court



Attending court



Dispute resolution appointment

You (the applicant) and your solicitor	The Family Court	The other parent (the respondent) and their solicitor
Prior to attending court, your solicitor will help you to prepare.	<p>The court will review all the information and will set a date for a Dispute Resolution Appointment. </p>	Their solicitor will help them to prepare.
If you can agree with the recommendations put forward, your barrister will draft a consent order.		If they can agree with the recommendations, a consent order will be prepared.
If you cannot agree the case will progress to a final hearing.	<p>The court will make a final order and the case will end. </p>	If they cannot agree the case will progress to a final hearing.
	<p>The court will set a date for a Final Hearing </p>	

Final hearing

You (the applicant) and your solicitor	The Family Court	The other parent (the respondent) and their solicitor
Prior to attending court, your solicitor will help you to prepare.		Their solicitor will help them to prepare.
You will give evidence.		They will give evidence.
Your solicitor will be able to challenge the evidence given by the other parent.	The judge will listen to both sides.	Their solicitor will be able to challenge your evidence.
	<p>The judge will come to a decision. The judge will make orders, telling each person what they can and cannot do. </p>	

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Disclaimer: This is a very brief overview of the process to help you understand the various stages on the way to obtaining a Child Arrangements Order. Every situation is different and may not follow this path. Your solicitor will guide you through each stage of your particular case.