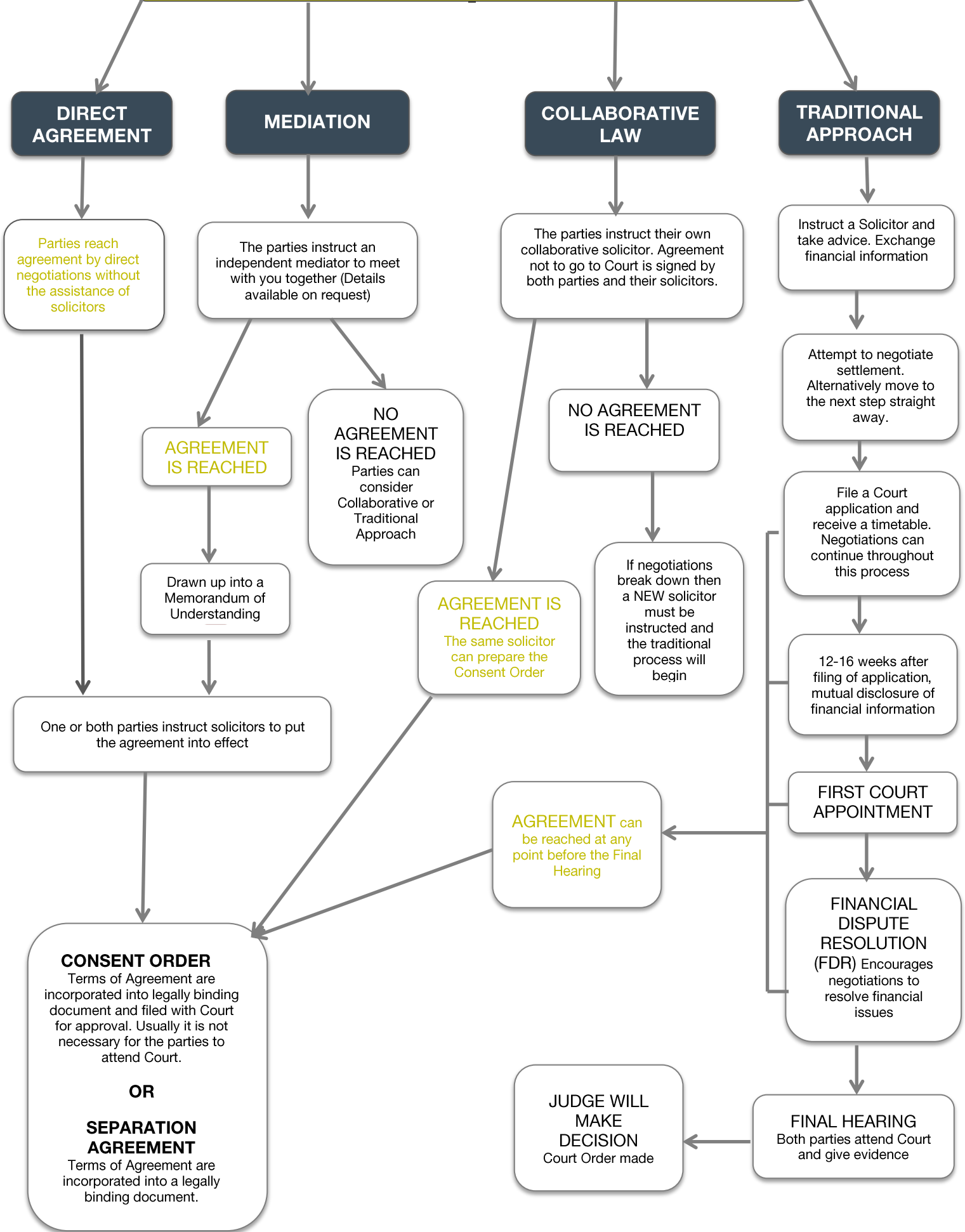


MY RELATIONSHIP HAS BROKEN DOWN – WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS TO ACHIEVE A FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT?



DIRECT AGREEMENT

Parties reach agreement by direct negotiations without the assistance of solicitors

One or both parties instruct solicitors to put the agreement into effect

CONSENT ORDER
Terms of Agreement are incorporated into legally binding document and filed with Court for approval. Usually it is not necessary for the parties to attend Court.

OR

SEPARATION AGREEMENT
Terms of Agreement are incorporated into a legally binding document.

MEDIATION

The parties instruct an independent mediator to meet with you together (Details available on request)

AGREEMENT IS REACHED

Drawn up into a Memorandum of Understanding

NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED
Parties can consider Collaborative or Traditional Approach

COLLABORATIVE LAW

The parties instruct their own collaborative solicitor. Agreement not to go to Court is signed by both parties and their solicitors.

NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED

If negotiations break down then a NEW solicitor must be instructed and the traditional process will begin

AGREEMENT IS REACHED
The same solicitor can prepare the Consent Order

AGREEMENT can be reached at any point before the Final Hearing

JUDGE WILL MAKE DECISION
Court Order made

TRADITIONAL APPROACH

Instruct a Solicitor and take advice. Exchange financial information

Attempt to negotiate settlement. Alternatively move to the next step straight away.

File a Court application and receive a timetable. Negotiations can continue throughout this process

12-16 weeks after filing of application, mutual disclosure of financial information

FIRST COURT APPOINTMENT

FINANCIAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION (FDR) Encourages negotiations to resolve financial issues

FINAL HEARING
Both parties attend Court and give evidence