
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2011 No. 157

MEDIATION

**The Cross-Border Mediation
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011**

Made - - - - - *23rd March 2011*

Coming into operation *18th April 2011*

The Department of Finance and Personnel, being a department designated⁽¹⁾ for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972⁽²⁾ in relation to mediation acting in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by that section hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation, commencement and application

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Cross-Border Mediation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 and shall come into operation on 18th April 2011.

(2) These Regulations only apply where mediation of the relevant cross-border dispute is started on or after 18th April 2011.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), mediation starts on the date when all the parties to the relevant cross-border dispute and the mediator agree to participate in the mediation.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“the Directive” means Directive [2008/52/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters⁽³⁾; and

“relevant cross-border dispute” means a cross-border dispute to which the Directive applies.

(2) Expressions used in the Directive have the same meaning for the purposes of these Regulations as in the Directive, unless the context otherwise requires.

(1) [S.I. 2010/2690](#)

(2) [1972 c.68](#). Section 2(2) was amended by section 27(1)(a) of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act [2006 \(c.51\)](#) and section 3 of, and the Schedule to, the European Union (Amendment) Act [2008 \(c.7\)](#).

(3) O.J. L 136, 24.5.2008, p. 3.

Confidentiality of Mediation

3.—(1) A mediator of, or a person involved in the administration of mediation in relation to, a relevant cross-border dispute is not to be compelled in any civil proceedings or arbitration to give evidence, or produce anything, regarding any information arising out of or in connection with that mediation.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply—

- (a) where all the parties to the mediation agree otherwise; or
- (b) in the circumstances set out in paragraph (a) or (b) of Article 7.1 of the Directive.

Amendment of the Land Registration Act (Northern Ireland) 1970

4.—(1) Schedule 9 to the Land Registration Act (Northern Ireland) 1970(4) is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) In paragraph 4(1), for “sub-paragraph (2)” substitute “ sub-paragraph (2) and paragraph 4A”.

(3) After paragraph 4 insert—

“4A.—(1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where—

- (a) there is mediation in relation to a relevant cross border dispute giving rise to a claim for compensation; and
- (b) the period of 6 years referred to in paragraph 4(1) (“the limitation period”) would, apart from this paragraph, expire—
 - (i) in the period of 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends;
 - (ii) on the date on which the mediation ends; or
 - (iii) after the date on which all of the parties to the dispute agree to participate in the mediation but before the date on which the mediation ends.

(2) Where this sub-paragraph applies, the limitation period is extended so that it expires on the date falling 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends.

(3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) and (2), a mediation in relation to a relevant cross-border dispute ends on the date of the first of these to occur—

- (a) all of the parties reach an agreement in resolution of the dispute;
- (b) all of the parties agree to end the mediation;
- (c) a party notifies all of the other parties of that party’s withdrawal;
- (d) a period of 14 days expires after a request made by one party to another party for confirmation of whether the other party has withdrawn and the other party does not respond in that period; or
- (e) a period of 14 days expires after the date on which the mediator’s tenure ends (by reason of death, resignation or otherwise) and a replacement mediator has not been appointed in that period.

(4) In this paragraph—

“the Directive” means Directive [2008/52/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21st May 2008 on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters;

“mediation” and “mediator” have the meanings given by Article 3 of the Directive; and

“relevant cross-border dispute” means a cross-border dispute within the meaning given by Article 2 of the Directive.”.

Amendment of the Equal Pay Act (Northern Ireland) 1970

5.—(1) The Equal Pay Act (Northern Ireland) 1970⁽⁵⁾ is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) In subsections (3) to (6) of section 2ZA, for “the qualifying date is” substitute “the qualifying date is, subject to section 2ZAA,”.

(3) After section 2ZA insert—

“Extension of time limit: mediation

2ZAA.—(1) Subsection (2) applies where—

- (a) there is mediation in relation to a relevant cross border dispute giving rise to proceedings under this Act; and
- (b) the six months period referred to in section 2ZA(3) to (6) (“the limitation period”) would, apart from this section, expire—
 - (i) in the period of 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends;
 - (ii) on the date on which the mediation ends; or
 - (iii) after the date on which all of the parties to the dispute agree to participate in the mediation but before the date on which the mediation ends.

(2) Where this subsection applies, the limitation period is extended so that it expires on the date falling 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1) and (2), a mediation in relation to a relevant cross-border dispute ends on the date of the first of these to occur—

- (a) all of the parties reach an agreement in resolution of the dispute;
- (b) all of the parties agree to end the mediation;
- (c) a party notifies all of the other parties of that party’s withdrawal,
- (d) a period of 14 days expires after a request made by one party to another party for confirmation of whether the other party has withdrawn and the other party does not respond in that period, or
- (e) a period of 14 days expires after the date on which the mediator’s tenure ends (by reason of death, resignation or otherwise) and a replacement mediator has not been appointed in that period.

(4) In this section—

“the Directive” means Directive [2008/52/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21st May 2008 on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters;

“mediation” and “mediator” have the meanings given by Article 3 of the Directive; and

“relevant cross-border dispute” means a cross-border dispute within the meaning given by Article 2 of the Directive.”.

Amendment of the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976

6.—(1) The Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976⁽⁶⁾ is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (4).

(2) In Article 76 (1), (3) and (4) for “An industrial tribunal” substitute “Subject to Article 76A, an industrial tribunal”.

(3) In Article 76 (2) for “A county court” substitute “Subject to Article 76A, a county court”.

(4) After Article 76 insert—

“Extension of time limit: mediation

76A.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies where—

- (a) there is mediation in relation to a relevant cross border dispute giving rise to proceedings under this Order; and
- (b) a period of time referred to in Article 76 (“the limitation period”) would, apart from this Article, expire—
 - (i) in the period of 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends;
 - (ii) on the date on which the mediation ends; or
 - (ii) after the date on which all of the parties to the dispute agree to participate in the mediation but before the date on which the mediation ends.

(2) Where this paragraph applies, the limitation period is extended so that it expires on the date falling 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1) and (2), a mediation in relation to a relevant cross-border dispute ends on the date of the first of these to occur—

- (a) all of the parties reach an agreement in resolution of the dispute;
- (b) all of the parties agree to end the mediation;
- (c) a party notifies all of the other parties of that party’s withdrawal,
- (d) a period of 14 days expires after a request made by one party to another party for confirmation of whether the other party has withdrawn and the other party does not respond in that period, or
- (e) a period of 14 days expires after the date on which the mediator’s tenure ends (by reason of death, resignation or otherwise) and a replacement mediator has not been appointed in that period.

(4) In this Article—

“the Directive” means Directive [2008/52/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21st May 2008 on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters;

“mediation” and “mediator” have the meanings given by Article 3 of the Directive; and

“relevant cross-border dispute” means a cross-border dispute within the meaning given by Article 2 of the Directive.”.

Amendment of the Matrimonial Causes (Northern Ireland) Order 1978

7.—(1) The Matrimonial Causes (Northern Ireland) Order 1978⁽⁷⁾ is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

⁽⁶⁾ [S.I. 1976/1042 \(N.I. 15\)](#)

⁽⁷⁾ [S.I. 1978/1045 \(N.I. 15\)](#)

- (2) In Article 55, for “but an application” substitute “but, subject to Article 55A, an application”.
- (3) After Article 55 insert—

“Extension of time limit: mediation

55A.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies where—

- (a) there is mediation in relation to a relevant cross border dispute giving rise to a claim under section 17 of the Married Woman’s Property Act 1882⁽⁸⁾; and
- (b) the period of 3 years referred to in Article 55 (“the limitation period”) would, apart from this Article, expire—
 - (i) in the period of 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends;
 - (ii) on the date on which the mediation ends; or
 - (iii) after the date on which all of the parties to the dispute agree to participate in the mediation but before the date on which the mediation ends.

(2) Where this paragraph applies, the limitation period is extended so that it expires on the date falling 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1) and (2), a mediation in relation to a relevant cross-border dispute ends on the date of the first of these to occur—

- (a) all of the parties reach an agreement in resolution of the dispute;
- (b) all of the parties agree to end the mediation;
- (c) a party notifies all of the other parties of that party’s withdrawal,
- (d) a period of 14 days expires after a request made by one party to another party for confirmation of whether the other party has withdrawn and the other party does not respond in that period, or
- (e) a period of 14 days expires after the date on which the mediator’s tenure ends (by reason of death, resignation or otherwise) and a replacement mediator has not been appointed in that period.

(4) In this Article—

“the Directive” means Directive [2008/52/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21st May 2008 on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters;

“mediation” and “mediator” have the meanings given by Article 3 of the Directive; and

“relevant cross-border dispute” means a cross-border dispute within the meaning given by Article 2 of the Directive.”.

Amendment of the Domestic Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1980

8.—(1) The Domestic Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1980⁽⁹⁾ is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

- (2) In Article 35(1), for “paragraph (2),” substitute “paragraph (2), and subject to Article 35A,”.
- (3) After Article 35 insert—

⁽⁸⁾ 1882 c. 75

⁽⁹⁾ S.I. 1980/563 (N.I. 5)

“Extension of time limit: mediation

35A.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies where—

- (a) there is mediation in relation to a relevant cross border dispute giving rise to an application for an order under Article 4; and
- (b) the period of 1 year referred to in Article 35 (“the limitation period”) would, apart from this Article, expire—
 - (i) in the period of 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends;
 - (ii) on the date on which the mediation ends; or
 - (iii) after the date on which all of the parties to the dispute agree to participate in the mediation but before the date on which the mediation ends.

(2) Where this paragraph applies, the limitation period is extended so that it expires on the date falling 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1) and (2), a mediation in relation to a relevant cross-border dispute ends on the date of the first of these to occur—

- (a) all of the parties reach an agreement in resolution of the dispute;
- (b) all of the parties agree to end the mediation;
- (c) a party notifies all of the other parties of that party’s withdrawal,
- (d) a period of 14 days expires after a request made by one party to another party for confirmation of whether the other party has withdrawn and the other party does not respond in that period, or
- (e) a period of 14 days expires after the date on which the mediator’s tenure ends (by reason of death, resignation or otherwise) and a replacement mediator has not been appointed in that period.

(4) In this Article—

“the Directive” means Directive [2008/52/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21st May 2008 on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters;

“mediation” and “mediator” have the meanings given by Article 3 of the Directive; and

“relevant cross-border dispute” means a cross-border dispute within the meaning given by Article 2 of the Directive.”.

Amendment of the Magistrates’ Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981

9.—(1) The Magistrates’ Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(**10**) is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) In Article 63 (1) for “this Article” substitute “this Article and Article 63A”.

(3) After Article 63 insert—

“Extension of time limit: mediation

63A.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies where—

- (a) there is mediation in relation to a relevant cross border dispute giving rise to debt proceedings; and

(b) the period of 6 years referred to in Article 63(1) (“the limitation period”) would, apart from this Article, expire—

(i) in the period of 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends;

(ii) on the date on which the mediation ends; or

(iii) after the date on which all of the parties to the dispute agree to participate in the mediation but before the date on which the mediation ends.

(2) Where this paragraph applies, the limitation period is extended so that it expires on the date falling 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1) and (2), a mediation in relation to a relevant cross-border dispute ends on the date of the first of these to occur—

(a) all of the parties reach an agreement in resolution of the dispute;

(b) all of the parties agree to end the mediation;

(c) a party notifies all of the other parties of that party’s withdrawal,

(d) a period of 14 days expires after a request made by one party to another party for confirmation of whether the other party has withdrawn and the other party does not respond in that period, or

(e) a period of 14 days expires after the date on which the mediator’s tenure ends (by reason of death, resignation or otherwise) and a replacement mediator has not been appointed in that period.

(4) In this Article—

“the Directive” means Directive [2008/52/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21st May 2008 on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters;

“mediation” and “mediator” have the meanings given by Article 3 of the Directive; and

“relevant cross-border dispute” means a cross-border dispute within the meaning given by Article 2 of the Directive.”.

Amendment of the Limitation (Northern Ireland) Order 1989

10.—(1) The Limitation (Northern Ireland) Order 1989(**11**) is amended in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) After Article 51 insert—

“Mediation

Extension of time limits: mediation

51A.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies where—

(a) there is mediation in relation to a relevant cross border dispute giving rise to an action for which a time limit is fixed by this Order; and

(b) the time limit would, apart from this Article, expire—

(i) in the period of 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends;

(ii) on the date on which the mediation ends; or

(iii) after the date on which all of the parties to the dispute agree to participate in the mediation but before the date on which the mediation ends.

(2) Where this paragraph applies, the time limit is extended so that it expires on the date falling 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1) and (2), a mediation in relation to a relevant cross-border dispute ends on the date of the first of these to occur—

- (a) all of the parties reach an agreement in resolution of the dispute;
- (b) all of the parties agree to end the mediation;
- (c) a party notifies all of the other parties of that party's withdrawal,
- (d) a period of 14 days expires after a request made by one party to another party for confirmation of whether the other party has withdrawn and the other party does not respond in that period, or
- (e) a period of 14 days expires after the date on which the mediator's tenure ends (by reason of death, resignation or otherwise) and a replacement mediator has not been appointed in that period.

(4) In this Article—

“the Directive” means Directive [2008/52/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21st May 2008 on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters;

“mediation” and “mediator” have the meanings given by Article 3 of the Directive; and

“relevant cross-border dispute” means a cross-border dispute within the meaning given by Article 2 of the Directive.”.

Amendment of the Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

11.—(1) The Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996⁽¹²⁾ is amended in accordance with paragraph (2) .

(2) After Article 249 insert—

“Time limits in relation to certain mediated cross-border disputes

249A.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies where—

- (a) there is mediation in relation to a relevant cross border dispute giving rise to a reference or complaint to an industrial tribunal under this Order; and
- (b) the fixed period of time specified by this Order for the making of that reference or complaint (“the limitation period”) would, apart from this Article, expire—
 - (i) in the period of 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends;
 - (ii) on the date on which the mediation ends; or
 - (iii) after the date on which all of the parties to the dispute agree to participate in the mediation but before the date on which the mediation ends.

(2) Where this paragraph applies, the limitation period is extended so that it expires on the date falling 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1) and (2), a mediation in relation to a relevant cross-border dispute ends on the date of the first of these to occur—

⁽¹²⁾ [SI 1996/1919 \(N.I.16\)](#)

- (a) all of the parties reach an agreement in resolution of the dispute;
 - (b) all of the parties agree to end the mediation;
 - (c) a party notifies all of the other parties of that party's withdrawal,
 - (d) a period of 14 days expires after a request made by one party to another party for confirmation of whether the other party has withdrawn and the other party does not respond in that period, or
 - (e) a period of 14 days expires after the date on which the mediator's tenure ends (by reason of death, resignation or otherwise) and a replacement mediator has not been appointed in that period.
- (4) In this Article—
- “the Directive” means Directive [2008/52/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21st May 2008 on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters;
- “mediation” and “mediator” have the meanings given by Article 3 of the Directive; and
- “relevant cross-border dispute” means a cross-border dispute within the meaning given by Article 2 of the Directive.”.

Amendment of the Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998

12.—(1) The Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998(**13**) is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (4).

- (2) In Article 46(1), after “paragraph (5),” insert “to Article 46A,”.
- (3) In paragraphs (2) to (4) of Article 46, after “paragraph (5)” insert “and to Article 46A”.
- (4) After Article 46 insert—

“Extension of time limits: mediation

46A.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies where—

- (a) there is mediation in relation to a relevant cross border dispute giving rise to proceedings under this Order; and
- (b) the fixed period specified in relation to such proceedings by Article 46(1) to (4) (“the limitation period”) would, apart from this Article, expire—
 - (a) in the period of 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends;
 - (b) on the date on which the mediation ends; or
 - (c) after the date on which all of the parties to the dispute agree to participate in the mediation but before the date on which the mediation ends.

(2) Where this paragraph applies, the limitation period is extended so that it expires on the date falling 8 weeks after the date on which the mediation ends.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1) and (2), a mediation in relation to a relevant cross-border dispute ends on the date of the first of these to occur—

- (a) all of the parties reach an agreement in resolution of the dispute;
- (b) all of the parties agree to end the mediation;
- (c) a party notifies all of the other parties of that party's withdrawal,

- (d) a period of 14 days expires after a request made by one party to another party for confirmation of whether the other party has withdrawn and the other party does not respond in that period, or
 - (e) a period of 14 days expires after the date on which the mediator’s tenure ends (by reason of death, resignation or otherwise) and a replacement mediator has not been appointed in that period.
- (4) In this Article—
- “the Directive” means Directive [2008/52/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21st May 2008 on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters;
 - “mediation” and “mediator” have the meanings given by Article 3 of the Directive; and
 - “relevant cross-border dispute” means a cross-border dispute within the meaning given by Article 2 of the Directive.”.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel on 23rd March 2011.

(L.S.)

O.G. Paulin
A senior officer of the Department of Finance
and Personnel

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations implement Directive [2008/52/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters, which applies to cross border disputes.

Regulation 3 sets out when mediators and those involved in the administration of mediation may be compelled to give evidence in civil and commercial judicial proceedings or arbitration.

Regulations 4 to 12 provide for the extension of limitation periods so that these do not expire during the mediation process. Where a period would otherwise have expired while mediation is ongoing or within 8 weeks of it ending, the regulations extend the period so that it will expire 8 weeks after the end of mediation.