**Chapter 3: Alternative Dispute Resolution in Family Law**

Chapter 3 has seen updates to information regarding the £500 mediation voucher scheme.

**3.1 Introduction**

Cuts to public funding have had unforeseen consequences for ADR. As fewer people have access to public funding and so do not visit a lawyer, the link between lawyers and mediation has been weakened and the numbers being referred to mediation have fallen sharply. This is ironic, as there is still public funding available for mediation (see **Chapter** **2**) as well as the recent Ministry of Justice (MoJ) voucher scheme which will provide a contribution of up to £500 towards the mediation costs for eligible cases. This is under a Family Procedure Rules 2010 (FPR 2010) Practice Direction, PD 36V (Pilot Scheme: Family Mediation Voucher Scheme), which came into effect from 26 March 2021.