**Mediator Information from Pre-Mediation Meetings**

Charles/Charlene and Michael/Maureen are siblings.

**Charles/Charlene**:

Charles/Charlene is 35 years old and is gay. He/she told the parents last year and other siblings previously to that. While it was a difficult time, particularly telling the parents, life has settled down once more and the family has been entirely supportive of Charles/Charlene and has welcomed his/her long-term partner into the family. However, not every member of the family has been supportive – there is a problem with an older sibling. Michael/Maureen does not approve their upcoming marriage and at this stage is not even talking to Charles/Charlene.

**Michael/Maureen:**

Michael/Maureen is Charles/Charlene’s older sibling.

He/she had guessed for many years that Charles/Charlene was gay. Michael/Maureen wasn’t particularly happy about the whole ‘coming out’ episode, but now with the upcoming wedding, there are problems. Whatever about being partners, Michael/Maureen does not agree with the wedding. After a number of heated arguments he/she has stopped talking to Charles/Charlene and said they will not attend the wedding ceremony in Dublin. Charles/Charlene is very upset, as are their parents.

Both have agreed to attend mediation.

**Disputant A Information – Charles/Charlene**

You are 32 years old, working in a busy hotel. You have lived away from your home town (small town in the country way out west) for many years.

You have been in a relationship for 4 years now and last year you took the major step of finally telling your parents that you are gay. While it was nerve wracking, it went well. Since then you have brought your partner to visit the family home a few times and your parents have been very welcoming.

Now you & your partner have decided to get married and are holding the ceremony in Dublin in a few months’ time. The family is thrilled - well not everybody. Your sibling, Michael/Maureen, is giving you an absolute pain. Ever since you told your siblings a few years ago, there has been a distinct cooling in your relationship with Michael/ Maureen – which had been really good up until your ‘coming out’. Since hearing about your wedding, there have been a number of nasty rows with you and he/she is saying there is no way they are attending the wedding with their family.

You are absolutely fed up with Michael/Maureen, their attitude and trying to mess up your life and happy day. You are no longer talking to each other and you are feeling very hurt and angry.

You have agreed to attend mediation.

***Note to Disputants:***

*Ensure that you are eventually reasonable, although angry and upset at first, and respond to the mediator’s skills.*

**Disputant B Information – Michael/Maureen**

You are 45 years old and the oldest sibling in your family. You get along very well with your parents and other brothers and sisters. In the past you always had a particularly strong relationship with your younger brother/sister (Charles/Charlene) – the best in comparison to the rest of your brothers & sisters.

Last year Charles/Charlene told your parents that he/she was gay. You were surprised at how well Mum & Dad took the news. You were told a couple of years ago, but had suspected for many years before that. In all honesty, you are not that comfortable with the whole thing and don’t know how to introduce your sibling and their ‘friend’.

Now with the news of the wedding, this is just ridiculous.

You’re going to be the laughing stock of the office and your neighbourhood. And Charles/Charlene just doesn’t get it. Why do they even need to get married?

You have already had a few arguments with each other – over nothing really - and now you’re not talking to one another. You told the family that you won’t be attending the wedding and although your parents are upset, it’s your life.

*Nose out of joint because was the last to find out about the partner, about the wedding and all the wedding plans.*

You have agreed to attend mediation.

***Note to Disputants:***

*Ensure that you are eventually reasonable, although angry and upset at first, and respond to the mediator’s skills.*