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MATCH, BM Box 6334, London WC1N 3XX	

M E M B E R S H I P F O R M

“The Charity’s objects are the preservation and protection of good mental health of Mothers living apart from their children by the provision of information, advice and support.”
(MATCH Constitution, Part 1, no. 3, adopted 3 June 2006)

How your information and confidentiality is safeguarded

The Membership Secretary (Trustee) will keep this form. The Treasurer (Trustee) will be given your name and address to write to you when your Membership comes up for renewal in one year's time.

Surname _____	Telephone numbers _____
First names _____	Your date of birth _____
Address _____ _____ _____	Your occupation or previous occupation _____ Do you have a new partner? _____ Is he/she supportive? _____ How did you find out about MATCH? _____
Post Code _____	a. How do you feel now you've found support? b. How long have you been searching for support?
e-mail _____	
Nearest or convenient towns/cities you're willing to travel to for Local Group Support. _____ _____	

Data Protection: Some of the information on this form will be computerised to help the Committee's administration. No details of any Member will be released to any other Member without her permission. No Non-Member will be given any details. Everything you tell us will be kept confidential and will comply with current Data and Personal Information Protection legislation.

A very warm welcome to MATCH! We're all volunteers who are, or have been, mothers apart, and hope to bring you comfort and support from knowing you're "not the only one."

We began in 1979 as a self-help group and became a charity in 2006. The volunteer unpaid Committee (Trustees) elected at the AGM, abide by a Constitution, and organise MATCH's very small resources as efficiently as possible. We have neither office nor telephone but our forwarding agent sends your letters to a designated Committee Member's home in the UK. Some of us have full-time jobs and 'fit' MATCH work into our very busy schedule. Please be patient if you don't hear from us immediately.

MATCH Members are apart from their children for many reasons but, basically, come into the following categories:

1. Children have been adopted.
2. Children are in care/have been fostered.
3. Children have been abducted abroad by the other parent.
4. School-age children live with the **Resident Parent**. The MATCH Member will be the **Non-Resident Parent** (NRP)

and will see/write/telephone/text her children according to clearly defined Contact Orders or Family Court Judgements.

5. Children choose not to see their mother after high-conflict situations following family breakdown (sometimes defined as **Parental Alienation Syndrome** or **Parental Alienation**).
6. Adult children, perhaps after a family feud, family breakdown or other reasons, cut off contact.
7. Other reasons you may want to specify separately.

We're frequently asked by the media why we're apart. Their narrow questioning, sometimes using emotive phrases such as "abandoning her children" leads us to believe society in general has preconceived views about "the kind of mother who doesn't live with her children". Perhaps public education is the key to showing the wide complexity of our situations.

Your answers, **should you choose to give them**, offer opportunities to challenge preconceptions. You may choose to describe how some individuals (personal, legal, etc.) have had a major impact on your past and your future. You may have advice for future mothers apart or for the legal profession or the court system.

Which group in 1-7 best describes your situation?

This is the hardest part: can you briefly describe *why* you're apart? [please use a separate sheet if you wish.]

This part is about your children

[In CONTACT columns, please use one word: *Excellent/Good/Close/Difficult/Blocked/Non-existent*]

Child's First Name only	Date of birth	How many months or years have you been apart?	CONTACT NOW: Which word best describes contact with child now?	CONTACT BEFORE Before being apart, which word best describes contact with child then?

This free space can be used to write about anything, and may be used in a future Newsletter WITHOUT ANY NAMES/PLACES/DATES/ GENDER OF CHILDREN to identify you.

It may be advice for future mothers who may lose contact with their children. It may be about something you might have done differently. It could be about your experience of the court or legal system. It could be about your hopes for the future. Other mothers in the past, perhaps sharing a similar experience have found comfort, hope or inspiration from learning about others. There's a Continuation Space later if needed.

Health and Well-Being

Would you say that being a mother apart has impacted on your physical and emotional health?

Yes No

If you've answered 'Yes', has the effect been on your physical or emotional health or both?

Physical Emotional Both

If you've answered 'Physical' can you briefly describe the effects?

If you've answered 'Emotional' can you briefly describe the effects?

If you've answered 'Both' can you briefly describe the effects?

If you've answered 'Yes' to any of the above, has this had an impact on your ability to work?

Yes No

If you've answered 'Yes', can you briefly describe the effects?

Continuation Space

Talents

Perhaps not now, but we know you used to be good at something! Do you play a musical instrument, paint, write poetry or stories? Do you run or play any sports? If you've given up for a while, please say why.

Offering your Skills to MATCH as a volunteer in the future

It's MATCH policy not to ask for help until Members have been with us for more than a year. Do you have professional or other skills we could use, e.g. **desktop publishing, Excel, Access, legal, counselling, book-keeping, accountancy, artistic?**

New Members' expectations (please tick one or more boxes):

Would you like Local Group Support?

The Newsletter is dependent on Members' contributions of wisdom, support and experience. Will this help and comfort you?

Would you like a pen friend?

Would you like details of an e-mail Support Group?

Welcome to MATCH Telephone Call.

Not a Help Line but an opportunity to talk to a MATCH Committee Member for 10-15 minutes. To protect your privacy, it is MATCH policy not to leave a message on your phone. If you're not in, the Committee Member will try again twice.

Please specify **times/days** convenient for you.

N.B. all MATCH Committee Members are volunteers, and MATCH work into their 'real-life' full-time jobs. Please be patient if you don't hear for a few weeks!

Membership Fees

Please make all cheques/international money orders payable to **MATCH** and return to:

MATCH, BM Box 6334, London WC1N 3XX

I enclose my 1st year Joining Fee:

UK: **£12.00**

Rest of the world: **£18.00**

Gift Aid

I enclose a completed **Gift Aid Declaration** to enable MATCH to benefit from the tax concessions given to Charities.

Donations always very gratefully appreciated. We receive no funding at all.

I enclose a **Donation** of £_____. (Donations of stamps always appreciated.)

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

I wish to join MATCH and agree to keep all information about other Members entirely confidential.

Signed _____

Date _____

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MATCH



Gift Aid Declaration

Title _____

Forename(s) _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

I want MATCH to treat [please tick one or more boxes]

- the enclosed donation of £_____ as a Gift Aid donation.
- donation(s)/subscription of £_____ I made on.../.../.....as (a) Gift Aid donation(s).
- all donations/subscriptions I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.
- all donations I have made for the six years prior to this year, (but no earlier than 6/4/2000) and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently approximately 28p for each £1 you give).

Signed _____ Date: _____

Notes:

1. You can cancel this Declaration at any time by notifying MATCH.
2. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
3. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
4. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask MATCH or refer to help sheet IR65 on the Inland Revenue website.
5. Please notify MATCH if you change your name or address.