

Community Mediation

The Center for Civic Mediation is pleased to offer the opportunity to mediate a dispute before a trained, experienced mediator. Mediation provides a less costly and less adversarial forum in which to resolve disputes.

Mediation is a voluntary, private dispute resolution process in which a trained mediator assists the parties in exploring their own interests, understanding the perspective of the other, and, if possible, reaching an agreement that they consider satisfactory.

Mediation is different from litigation or arbitration because the mediator does not decide the outcome of the dispute. The mediator assists the parties in reaching an outcome that is mutually agreeable. Consequently, mediation tends to be less formal and takes less time than arbitration or litigation. The mediator does not act as legal counsel or give legal advice to either side.

Following are some questions commonly asked about mediation. Should you find that you have additional questions after reading this brochure, do not hesitate to contact the Center for Civic Mediation Community Mediation Program.

- *How does mediation work?*

Mediation is best described as a facilitated negotiation. A typical mediation begins with a joint session where the parties briefly present their cases and moderate a discussion to identify areas of common ground and points of difference. Sometimes the mediator will meet separately with the parties in confidential “caucuses” in order to help both the mediator

and the parties gain a better understanding of both sides of the various issues. The role of the mediator is to help the parties explore appropriate solutions and to facilitate communications and negotiation. If an agreement is reached, the mediator will help the parties write the agreement.

- *How successful is mediation?*

Mediation has proven to be a very successful means of resolving a dispute; typically, over 80% of disputes that parties voluntarily agree to bring into mediation reach settlement.

- *What if I decide I don't want to mediate my case?*

Because mediation is voluntary, you are not required to agree to mediate. If you do initially agree to mediate and then change your mind, either party may call an end to the mediation at any time during the process and proceed to file a claim.

- *Is mediation binding?*

The parties are not bound to reach a settlement. If you willingly reach an agreement, you may mutually agree that your own agreement be binding.

- *Who are the mediators?*

The mediators on the Center panel have received extensive training and practical experience mediating a range of issues, and qualified after a rigorous assessment process, well exceeding requirements of the California Dispute Resolution Programs Act.

- *What are the costs/timing of mediation?*

There is no cost for the first three (3) hours of mediation. Disputes are typically resolved within the first three (3) hours; however, if subsequent mediation sessions are needed and agreed to by the participants, the charge for additional sessions will be based on the mediator's hourly rate. If the parties cannot afford to pay fees are waived. No subsequent mediation(s) will be scheduled unless participants mutually agree to have additional sessions.

- *Am I entitled to bring another person to mediation?*

You are entitled to have someone else with you at the mediation, including legal counsel.

WHY CHOOSE MEDIATION?

Mediation is
NOT
the practice of law



Mediation allows you to:

- Tell your side of the story
- Spend less money than other alternatives
- Have a say in the outcome, rather than having it imposed by a judge
- Discuss issues and concerns you would not be allowed to discuss in court
- Preserve your relationship with the other party
- Maintain confidentiality
- And more.....

Neither the Center for Civic Mediation nor the mediator can give you legal advice and neither is acting as your attorney. You may have important legal rights and responsibilities. If you have any legal questions, you must consult an attorney immediately.

If you do not have an attorney, and wish to consult with one, the LACBA Lawyer Referral and Information Service can refer you to one. You may contact the Lawyer Referral and Information Service at (213) 243-1525.



The Center for Civic Mediation

P.O. Box 55020
Los Angeles, CA 90055
1-877-4RESOLV
1-877-473-7658
562-570-1019
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY MEDIATION PROGRAM

A GUIDE TO MEDIATION

With the help of a trained neutral (mediator), you can achieve a resolution to your dispute in a setting of mutual cooperation and respect.

Mediation can lead to a quicker and mutually satisfactory resolution at less cost than other options.

**For Services Call 1-877-4RESOLV
1-877-473-7658 or 562-570-1019**