



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SMALL CLAIMS COURT

MEDIATION INFORMATION FOR SMALL CLAIMS PARTIES

What is Mediation?

Mediation is a voluntary, private meeting. During mediation a trained, neutral third party known as a mediator will help people resolve their dispute. The mediator does not evaluate the merits of a case, but instead will assist both parties in discussing the problems that caused their conflict. This provides both parties a chance to talk and come to an agreement that they will both uphold.

WHY SHOULD YOU CONSIDER CHOOSING MEDIATION?

- ❖ It is **FREE and CONVENIENT**.
Prior to the day of trial, you can request to mediate your case at no cost and at a location near your home or workplace.
- ❖ It is **CONFIDENTIAL**.
Any statement made during mediation cannot be repeated to the judge. This allows an uninhibited discussion during mediation.
- ❖ It is **EFFICIENT**.
The average Small Claims mediation lasts less than one hour. By reaching an agreement, you save an enormous amount of time, energy, and expense associated with an ongoing conflict. If you are unable to reach an agreement, you will still proceed to court as previously scheduled for your trial.
- ❖ It is **EFFECTIVE**.
Parties can create their own agreement that is binding and enforceable by the court. People are more likely to fulfill their obligation when they shared in reaching an agreement.
- ❖ It is **EMPOWERING**.
Sometimes parties feel they "lose" even though they win the case and many parties that "win" at trial still must overcome numerous obstacles to collect on their judgment. Mediation potentially avoids these "lose-lose" and "win-lose" outcomes that happen at trial by giving the parties the power to decide how to resolve their disputes. At mediation, parties can create a monetary agreement, a written apology, an exchange or return of property, or anything else that satisfies their wants or needs, as long as it is legal.
- ❖ It is **BENEFICIAL**.
You will avoid the time, traffic and expense (gasoline and parking) of traveling to the courthouse in downtown San Diego for your trial. You will also not have to spend a morning or afternoon at the courthouse for your trial.

Want to find out more information or to schedule a **FREE** mediation sooner than your trial date?

Contact the mediation service near you listed below:

- National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC), 530 B Street, Suite 1700, San Diego CA 92101
(619) 238-2400, City Heights (619) 593-4530, East County (619) 593-4530, South Bay (619) 428-3200,
www.ncrconline.com