

Mediation Glossary

- **Caucus:** A private meeting at a mediation between the mediator and one side. Information obtained may not be revealed by the mediator to any other mediation participant without the consent of the disclosing party.
- **Confidentiality:** Keeping discussions and information private. With only a few exceptions, mediations are confidential. Unless one of the exceptions applies, you may only discuss what happened or was said at mediation with your attorney, another person who attended the mediation, or that person's attorney.
- **Impartiality:** Not showing any favoritism or prejudice. A mediator must remain impartial at all times and must not show a preference for one party or another.
- **Respondent or Defendant:** The person being sued. Depending on which court you are in, these terms may differ.
- **Guardian ad Litem:** A specially trained person appointed by the court to represent the interests of a minor child, gather information and make recommendations to the court.
- **Judgment:** A final order entered by a judge at the end of a lawsuit. Frequently, a judgment will determine the amount of money owed by one person to another, but a judgment may also include other items. A judgment is usually not confidential and may be obtained from the court records. A judgment is enforceable by the court.
- **Plaintiff, Petitioner or Claimant:** The person who is asking the court to do something. Depending on which court you are in, these terms may differ.
- **Pro Se:** A person who does not have a lawyer and is representing themselves.

The foregoing is provided for educational purposes only and is not a substitute for independent legal advice. They are not legal definitions but are stated plainly to assist the reader. They have been adopted from Florida's Alternative Dispute Resolution Center and may be viewed in their entirety at flcourts.org.

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