

## How to find a mediator

Information about mediation and lists of mediators who practice in Washington can be found on the internet at these sites. If you need help accessing the internet sites, contact your public library for assistance. You can also find mediators listed in your local telephone book Yellow Pages under "Mediation."

[www.WashingtonMediation.org](http://www.WashingtonMediation.org)  
(The Washington Mediation Association)

[www.awsdr.org](http://www.awsdr.org)  
(The Association of Washington State  
Dispute Resolution Centers)

[www.adr-wa.com](http://www.adr-wa.com)  
(The Dispute Resolution Section of the  
Washington State Bar Association)

[www.spokanecounty.org/  
superiorcourt/ADRInfo.htm](http://www.spokanecounty.org/superiorcourt/ADRInfo.htm)  
(Spokane County mediators)

[www.waeb.uscourts.gov](http://www.waeb.uscourts.gov)  
(U.S. Bankruptcy Court Eastern District of  
Washington Mediation Program)

[www.wawd.uscourts.gov](http://www.wawd.uscourts.gov)  
(U.S. District Court, Western District of  
Washington Rule 39.1 Mediation)

[www.mediate.com](http://www.mediate.com)  
(The Mediation Information and Referral  
Center, Nationwide Directory)

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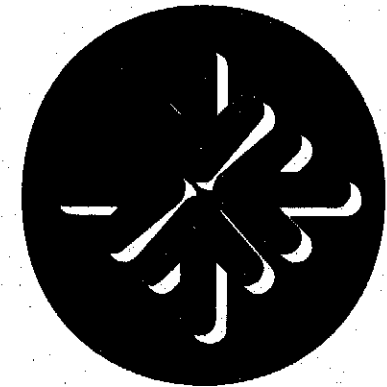
[www.WashingtonMediation.org](http://www.WashingtonMediation.org)

and the



The Association of Washington State Dispute  
Resolution Centers  
[www.awsdr.org](http://www.awsdr.org)

## How to Settle Out of Court



Mediation may be  
*right* for you...

## Do you want to settle your dispute out of court?

Mediation may be the right choice for you when:

- ◆ You are unable to work things out with the other person on your own.
- ◆ You want to avoid a lengthy legal process.
- ◆ You want to maintain control of all decision making.
- ◆ You want to be directly involved in all discussions.
- ◆ You need to save time and money.

## What is mediation?

### Mediation is

- ◆ assisted negotiation,
- ◆ in a safe and supportive environment,
- ◆ where people work together with an impartial person,
- ◆ to reach a voluntary solution acceptable to both sides.

### Mediation is

- ◆ Voluntary.
- ◆ Confidential.
- ◆ Informal.
- ◆ Usually much less expensive than going to court.

### Mediated agreements

- ◆ Are written to meet your needs.
- ◆ May encourage future cooperation.
- ◆ Are legally binding.
- ◆ Are enforceable when filed with the court.

## How to start mediation

**Step 1.** Call some mediation service providers in your area (see How to find a mediator panel).

**Step 2.** Ask the mediators you interview whether they handle your type of case.

- ◆ The mediator you choose should have knowledge of and experience with the type of issues involved in your dispute.

**Step 3.** You should also ask about their mediation style, qualifications, and fees.

- ◆ Good mediators should have at least 36 hours of mediation training.
- ◆ Many of the best mediators are also certified by professional mediation associations/centers.

- ◆ They should stress that they will *not* function as a lawyer, and that you will *not* be pressured into making an agreement.

- ◆ If you are a low income individual, ask if they offer a sliding scale fee.

**Step 4.** Once you find a mediator you want to work with, discuss your dispute with him or her.

**Step 5.** If both of you want to proceed, the mediator will contact the other party and try to set a time for mediation that is convenient for both of you.

