

Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division

Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs

The Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division mediates a wide variety of cases through our multiple mediation programs. The Division also offers other alternative dispute resolution services, but mediation is our most frequently used service.

Civil ADR Program: The Civil ADR Program consists of Civil Mediation, Complex Mediation, and Early Medical Malpractice Mediation; other services include arbitration and case evaluation, though these are used much less frequently than the mediation services. Mediations are usually court-ordered and scheduled by the court.

Small Claims and Collections Mediation Program: The Small Claims Mediation Program provides mediation for small claims matters. Typically, the disputes involve consumer and service provider complaints with claims of \$10,000 or less. The Program also mediates certain types of collection matters for claims up to \$25,000. Clients are served in the order in which they are referred to mediation from the courtroom.

Landlord & Tenant Mediation Program: This Program provides mediation for cases on both the L&T Jury Demand docket as well as the L&T Same-Day docket. Cases involve claims for possession of a rental property, past-due rent, or both. In Jury Demand cases, the cases are referred to mediation by the court and are by appointment only. For Same Day cases, either the presiding judge may refer a case to mediation or the parties may elect to mediate.

Probate and Tax Mediation Programs: Probate cases involving litigation are referred to mediation as part of the standard scheduling order; however, cases involving will contests, estate claims proceedings, fee disputes, and intervention matters are referred individually by the judge. Tax cases are referred to mediation at the initial status hearing, both for residential and commercial property cases. Mediations in the Probate and Tax Mediation Programs are generally court-ordered and by appointment only.

Family Mediation Program: This Program provides mediation as an alternate method of resolving family disputes, such as child custody, child support, visitation, and issues incident to divorce. The Program handles walk-in clients as well as cases referred by the court. Parties are screened by the Community Information and Referral Program prior to scheduling a mediation. Mediations are generally by appointment, but some court-referred cases may have the first mediation session on the same day as their referral.

Child Protection Mediation Program (CPM): CPM provides mediation to families with active civil child abuse or neglect cases in Family Court. Maltreatment allegations may include physical, psychological, or sexual abuse; neglect; an unwilling caretaker; or abandonment. The mediation is a multi-party mediation that includes parents, caretakers, attorneys, social workers, the child(ren)'s guardian ad litem, and the assistant attorney general who is responsible for trial. When appropriate, the mediation may address a permanency placement (e.g. adoption) for the child(ren). Mediations are court-referred and by appointment only.

Community Information and Referral Program: This Program provides a number of services, including referrals to outside agencies. The Program also conciliates a variety of community disputes. Clients may walk-in or schedule an appointment in advance.

410 E St NW
Suite 2900
Washington, D.C. 20001

Phone: 202-879-1549
Fax: 202-879-9456

Website: <https://www.dccourts.gov/services/mediation-matters>

