

Notice to Parties on Mediation

Solano Superior Court is committed to providing free mediation services for Small Claims cases and strongly encourages your participation.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mediation is a confidential (private) meeting hosted by a mediator where the parties decide if they can agree on a way to settle the case. ● Mediation is not required, it is voluntary, and you may stop at any time. ● The mediator is not part of the court, and does not take sides, give legal advice or make legal decisions. ● Mediation has a high rate of success-approximately 70% of all cases are resolved in Mediation. ● Mediation is empowering. It allows the parties to reach an agreement that works for them rather than have a judge make a decision that one or both sides may not like. ● Mediation is free in Small Claims cases. 		
	If I am suing (plaintiff)	If I am being sued (defendant)
Why Mediate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>There is no risk in mediation.</u> You may stop at any time; your case goes on to trial and the judge decides. ● <u>You may lose if you go to court.</u> If you don't have enough evidence to prove your court case, you may lose--even if you are right. ● <u>You cannot appeal,</u> as a plaintiff, if you lose. ● <u>Defendants are more likely to pay when they share in negotiating the agreement.</u> You avoid spending time, money and effort preparing for court and collecting a judgment if you win. (Collecting a judgment often can be more difficult than winning a case.) ● <u>Mediation works especially well</u> in cases where you may need, or want, to keep a relationship with the defendant. ● <u>Mediation is a win-win situation.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>There is no risk in mediation.</u> You may stop at any time; your case goes on to trial and the judge decides. ● <u>You may lose if you go to court.</u> If you don't have enough evidence to prove your court case, you may lose--even if you are right. ● <u>If you lose in court,</u> you may have to pay interest at 10% per year on the judgment; a lien may be placed on your home, a court order may be issued to take a part of your wages and/or your spouse's wages, etc. ● <u>Judgments stay on your credit report for several years,</u> even if you pay everything right away. ● <u>Mediation works especially well</u> in cases where you may need, or want, to keep a relationship with the plaintiff. ● <u>Mediation is a win-win situation.</u>
What happens if I Mediate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The mediator helps you write your agreement so it can be enforced. ● The case is dismissed from court and no judgment is entered against the defendant. The plaintiff can only file a case again if the defendant doesn't keep the agreement. ● The defendant's credit report does not show any judgment. ● After mediation, it is easier to repair relationships with a defendant or a plaintiff who is family, a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or someone you do business with. 	
Who can I contact?	To set up a mediation appointment, tell the clerk when you file your case.	