

What is Mediation?

Filing suit may not be the best solution in all cases. Most disputes which reach the court could have been settled more quickly and easily through better communication. Mediation is a process in which a third party promotes and facilitates communication between the parties to help them resolve their differences.

A pre-filing or pretrial settlement not only saves valuable court time and resources, but also, and just as importantly results in a disposition which the parties have made themselves-one they have deemed most fair under the circumstances, and one which is more likely to be adhered to than a court imposed judgment.

If the dispute is not settled in this manner, the claimant has lost nothing as the right to file suite later is retained. If it is settled, the inconvenience of a full scale trial for claimant, respondent, and both sides' witnesses is avoided. In addition, both sides win with neither side risking the loss of having the judge decide against them, saving the expense of court costs (except filing fees if the mediation is after the filing), the cost of gathering evidence, and possibly attorney fees.

Mediations are scheduled through the municipal court at no costs to either party. As a final reminder, if the matter is settled now, the parties will have the satisfaction of having solved their own problem without regard as to who won or lost. All involved will be winners.