



“Empowering people to make positive changes in the way they respond to conflict.”

Your Community Mediator (YCM) uses a mediation framework that focuses on an interest based negotiation process where our mediators strive to help clients identify, communicate and understand both parties’ needs and goals in order to build solutions that address the real issues behind the conflict. We generally utilize a facilitative model in our mediations; mediators are there to guide the conversation and provide tools to help problem solve, they are not there to make decision or create solutions for you.

This is your process; make it worth your time.

What can I expect when I attend mediation?

By agreeing to participate in mediation, you can take an important step toward resolving a dispute. The goal of the mediation is to reach an agreement that all participants find reasonable and in their best interests.

What happens in a mediation session?

Each party gets a chance to talk about the situation from their perspective, without interruption, sometimes in the presence of the other party and sometimes with only the mediators present. The mediator will facilitate the discussion by establishing ground rules and guiding participants through a process of discovery and communication. Some of the techniques may be familiar, such as “brainstorming, but the mediation process itself is indeed a unique experience. The mediator is there to help the parties decide what the important issues are, explore misunderstandings, illuminate listening techniques and discover solutions.

What happens when we find a solution?

If an agreement is reached, a written agreement will be drafted and each party will sign the agreement.

How much time will it take?

Each mediation is different. In most cases YCM maintains a 2 hour maximum for each session and the majority of cases are resolved within the two hours. Breaks are generally allowed, speak to your mediator at the beginning of the session in regards to how they would prefer to handle break time if necessary. Sometimes it is necessary to schedule a follow-up session. If a second session is determined appropriate in your case, times and locations will be decided prior to leaving the initial mediation session.

Is this meeting confidential?

Yes. The mediator(s) will keep confidential everything you say during the mediation. At the beginning of the mediation, you will be asked to sign a “Consent to Mediate” agreement to keep matters discussed in the mediation confidential. The mediator(s) will review the agreement with you and answer any questions you may have at that time. The agreement explains that the mediators will not discuss matters covered in the mediation outside of the mediation, this includes requests for information from the courts. Any final mediated agreements reached at the end of the mediation are not confidential.