



SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division
410 E ST., NW, Washington, DC 20001
(202) 879-1549 | www.dccourts.gov

AGREEMENT TO MEDIATE

1. What is Mediation?

Mediation is a way for people in a dispute or disagreement to work things out with the help of someone who listens to all sides but doesn't take sides. This person is called a mediator.

2. Voluntary Participation

By signing this document, or by verbally agreeing, all people agree to take part in the mediation and understand that they can stop it at any time.

3. Role of Mediator and Parties

- a) The mediator's job is to help people talk to each other and try to come up with a solution that works for everyone.
- b) The mediator won't act like a judge or a lawyer, and they won't impose a solution.
- c) The mediator will give everyone an opportunity to speak openly. The mediator may also meet with people separately to learn more about the situation and explore ideas regarding a solution.
- d) Parties will decide whether to settle their dispute and if so on what terms.

4. Right to Consult an Attorney

You should get advice from an attorney if you want to, and any agreement you make can be looked at by an attorney before it's signed.

5. Confidentiality

Everything that's said during the mediation is private and can't be used in court. However, if someone talks about abuse, neglect, or harm to someone else, the mediator might have to tell someone. You can't record or take pictures or screenshots of the mediation, and only certain people can be there. The mediator and the people involved can answer questions about the mediation.

- a) No party will be bound by anything said or done in mediation unless an agreement is reached and a written copy of the agreement is signed by all parties. Once signed, the written agreement is binding on all parties to the agreement.
- b) The parties agree not to subpoena the mediator, or any documents submitted to the mediator. In no event will a mediator voluntarily testify.

- c) If people sign an Agreement, the Agreement may be shared with the court if appropriate.

If mediation is conducted remotely, everyone agrees to participate in a location where others cannot hear or observe any part of the mediation unless the other people are approved participants. Everyone participating in the mediation understands that mediation is a confidential process, so only the mediator(s), parties, attorneys, and approved support persons may be present during the mediation sessions. Everyone also understands that children and any person not approved by the mediation program are not allowed to be present or to hear any part of the mediation discussions.

6. Exceptions to Confidentiality: D.C. Code §16-4205 outlines all of the exceptions to confidentiality under the Uniform Mediation Act. The mediator or staff may disclose communications of abuse, neglect, abandonment, exploitation, or threats and/or statements of a plan to cause bodily harm or injury.

7. Acknowledgement

You acknowledge that Multi-Door staff and/or the mediator explained the mediation process, were given an opportunity to ask questions, and are satisfied with the response. Additional questions should be raised with the mediator or Multi-Door staff.

By signing below, or by verbally agreeing to participate in mediation, parties agree to abide by the terms contained in this Agreement.

Plaintiff

Sign: _____

Print: _____

Defendant

Sign: _____

Print: _____

Plaintiff

Sign: _____

Print: _____

Defendant

Sign: _____

Print: _____

Plaintiff's Attorney

Sign: _____

Print: _____

Defendant's Attorney

Sign: _____

Print: _____

Other: Specify Title/Role

Sign: _____

Print: _____

Neutral's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Print Neutral's Name Here: _____

Case Name: _____

Case No: _____