

Where Can I Get Help?

The Landlord Tenant Resource Center

510 4th Street N.W., Room 208
Washington, D.C. 20001
Monday – Friday, 9:15 -12:00 noon

D.C. Law Students in Court Program

510 4th Street N.W., Room 210
Washington, D.C. 20001
202- 638-4798
Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Bread for the City – N.W. Center

1525 7th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
202-265-2400
Call to schedule an appointment

Bread for the City – S.E. Center

1640 Good Hope Road S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020
202-561-8587
Call to schedule an appointment

Legal Aid Society of DC

666 11th Street N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001
202-628-1161
Call for intake hours

Legal Counsel for the Elderly

601 E Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20049
202-434-2170
Tenants who are 60+ years old.
Call Monday through Friday
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

If you have limited income, there are organizations (known as Legal Services Providers) that may be able to give you legal advice, represent you in court, or help you learn how to represent yourself.

For more information contact:

<http://www.lawhelp.org/DC/>

Contact and Location Information

Landlord & Tenant Jury Demand mediation sessions are held Monday through Friday at 1:30 pm, at 410 E Street N.W. (second floor, Court Building C).

The nearest Metro stop is Judiciary Square, on the red line.

For additional information about Multi-Door services or the mediation process, please contact our office to speak with the Program Officer:
202-879-1549

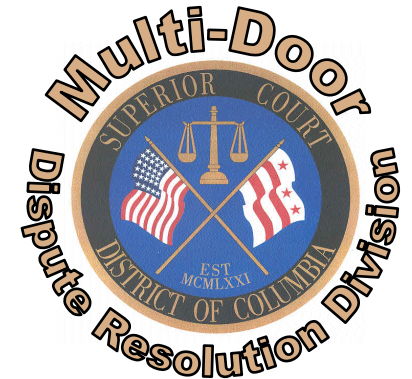


Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division

Court Building C
410 E Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
(p) 202-879-1549
(f) 202-879-9458

<https://www.dccourts.gov/superior-court/multi-door-dispute-resolution-division>

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Landlord & Tenant

Jury Demand Mediation



Jeannie M. Adams, Division Director

What Is Mediation?

Mediation is a confidential dispute resolution process conducted by an impartial mediator. The mediator listens to each party and allows each party to voice their concerns. The mediator may also help the parties think of ways to resolve the dispute, if appropriate for the case. A mediator does not coerce parties to settle their case, declare a winner or loser, decide the facts of the case, or rule on legal issues. In mediation, the parties may independently and voluntarily choose to settle their lawsuit.

How Does a Mediation Session Proceed?

The mediation process is flexible, allowing the mediator to use the best format for your case. Generally, a mediation consists of:

- the mediator's introduction,
- opening statements by parties (or their counsel),
- joint sessions to discuss the issues raised by the parties,
- private sessions (called caucuses), and
- drafting the agreement if a settlement is reached.

The mediator will help parties think through the strengths and weaknesses of their case, typically in private session. (This may also occur in joint session.) Parties are encouraged to be open with the mediator throughout the process. Mediation is confidential, meaning that the mediator does not share what was said in mediation with anyone outside of the mediation session.

How Do I Prepare for Mediation?

1. **File a Confidential Settlement Statement (CSS):** You or your attorney must file a CSS thirty days prior to the scheduled mediation date. A digital copy of the CSS and submission instructions are available on the division's web page at: <https://www.dccourts.gov/services/mediation-matters/landlord-and-tenant>.

2. **Pre-Mediation Call:** Your mediator will call you (or your attorney) a couple of days before mediation. This conversation provides you (or your attorney) an opportunity to explain the basic details of the case, the status of settlement negotiations, and any obstacles to settlement. A productive pre-mediation discussion can help facilitate settlement of the case.

3. **Think through Your Case:** Before mediation, you should think about the strengths and weaknesses of your case. You should consider what you need from any potential settlement. (For example, monetary payment, conclusion of the case, improved relationship, apology, etc.) You should also identify a range of settlement options that you would be willing to consider. If you have an attorney, you and your attorney should talk about your case together.

The Benefits of Mediation

Mediation offers many benefits, such as helping parties find practical solutions that feel fair, improving communication between parties, minimizing costs, and avoiding the delays and risks of going to trial. No one knows with certainty what will occur at trial.

Ending the Mediation Session

If you reach an agreement, it needs to be written down so that the court can record the case as settled. The mediator typically writes the agreement, if you or the other party do not have an attorney. The attorney(s) may write the agreement if all parties consent. The mediator will read the agreement out loud to all parties, to check that the written version reflects what you and the other party agreed to. Be sure to let the mediator know if the written version is incorrect.

If you do not reach an agreement, a date for the pre-trial conference is set immediately following mediation by Multi-Door.

How Long Does the Mediation Last?

Cases are scheduled for two-hour sessions. Your mediation session may take more or less time, depending on the complexity of the case. Follow-up sessions are available, if desired by the parties. Second sessions are scheduled only if all parties agree to the additional session.

Additional Information

If someone else (like a spouse or friend) will influence your decision to settle the case, you should consider discussing the case with them and consider bringing them to the mediation session. Please note that they may not participate in the session unless all parties agree that they may be in the mediation room. You may consult them during caucuses, if you wish.