

## 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 Same-Day mediation sessions are held Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 510 4th Street N.W. (Court Building B).

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**

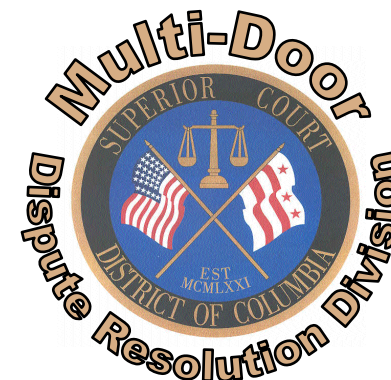


### **Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division**

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

<https://www.dccourts.gov/services/mediation-matters/landlord-and-tenant>

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# Landlord & Tenant

*Same-Day 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.

## The Benefits of Mediation

- Mediation works by sorting things out constructively.
- Mediation helps parties find practical solutions that feel fair.
- Mediation is free. The court offers it as a service that makes the community a better place to live.
- Mediation assists in improving communication between parties, identifying areas of agreement, and generating a mutually acceptable solution to the dispute.
- Mediation avoids delay and also avoids risk. No one knows with certainty what will occur at trial.
- Mediation offers the opportunity to explain your case to a neutral third party who will listen to your concerns.
- Mediation permits the parties to participate directly in creating a consensual agreement. Parties have more control over the outcome of their case, and amiable agreements create opportunities for improved future relationships.
- Mediation can save time through early resolution of disputes, allowing parties to avoid the stress and difficulties of trial.

## How Do I Participate in Mediation?

All parties must agree to mediate and sign up on the Mediation Sign-up Sheet in the courtroom. Mediations are held on a first-come, first-served basis. When it is your turn, the mediator will escort all parties to the mediation room. A mediation session typically lasts 30 to 90 minutes, depending on the complexity of the case. An additional mediation session can be scheduled if all parties agree to it.

## 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 the other party has an attorney, the attorney may write the agreement if you consent. (You may also choose to have the mediator write it.) 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, you will return to the courtroom for further proceedings. This may include trial.

## Additional Information

If someone else (like a spouse or friend) came with you to court today, you may consult them during caucuses, if you wish. Please note that they may not participate in the session unless all parties agree that they may be in the mediation room.