

Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division

Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs

The Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division mediates a wide variety of cases through our multiple mediation programs.

Civil ADR Program: The Civil ADR Program consists of Civil Mediation, Complex Mediation, and Early Medical Malpractice Mediation. Mediations are usually court-ordered and scheduled by the court.

Small Claims and Collections Mediation Program: The Small Claims Mediation Program provides mediation for small claims matters. Typically, the disputes involve consumer and service provider complaints with claims of \$10,000 or less. The Program also mediates certain types of collection matters for claims up to \$25,000. Clients are served in the order in which they are referred to mediation from the courtroom.

Landlord & Tenant Mediation Program: This Program provides mediation for cases on both the L&T Jury Demand docket as well as the L&T Bench Trial docket. Cases involve claims for possession of a rental property, past-due rent, or both. In Jury Demand cases, the cases are referred to mediation by the court and are by appointment only. For Bench Trial cases, the presiding judge schedules these cases for mediation.

Probate and Tax Mediation Programs: Probate cases involving litigation are referred to mediation as part of the standard scheduling order; however, cases involving will contests, estate claims proceedings, fee disputes, and intervention matters are referred individually by the judge. Tax cases are referred to mediation at the initial status hearing, both for residential and commercial property cases. Mediations in the Probate and Tax Mediation Programs are generally court-ordered and by appointment only.

Family Mediation Program: This Program provides mediation as an alternate method of resolving family disputes, such as child custody, child support, visitation, and issues incident to divorce. The Program handles walk-in clients as well as cases referred by the court. Parties are screened by the Community Information and Referral Program prior to scheduling a mediation. Mediations are generally by appointment, but some court-referred cases may have the first mediation session on the same day as their referral.

Child Protection Mediation Program (CPM): CPM provides mediation to families with active civil child abuse or neglect cases in Family Court. Maltreatment allegations may include physical, psychological, or sexual abuse; neglect; an unwilling caretaker; or abandonment. The mediation is a multi-party mediation that includes parents, caretakers, attorneys, social workers, the child(ren)'s guardian ad litem, and the assistant attorney general who is responsible for trial. When appropriate, the mediation may address a permanency placement (e.g. adoption) for the child(ren). Mediations are court-referred and by appointment only.

Community Information and Referral Program: This Program provides a number of services, including referrals to outside agencies. The Program also conciliates a variety of community disputes. Clients may walk-in or schedule an appointment in advance.

Community Partnership – Addressing Truancy Through Engagement and Negotiated Dialogue (ATTEND):

ATTEND is a truancy mediation program that began as a pilot in January 2018 and became a full program in January 2019. ATTEND is operated by the Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division in conjunction with the Office of the Attorney General for the purpose of assisting parents of children ages 5 through 12 with resolving school attendance issues prior to charges being filed against the parents in the Superior Court.

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