

BENTONVILLE DISTRICT COURT MEDIATION PROGRAM

Helping You Resolve Your Conflict

WHAT IS MEDIATION?

You find yourself in a dispute you have not been able to resolve on your own. Now you are in a court case and will soon be in a courtroom in front of a judge. The process can be time-consuming and stressful, but there is another way.

On the day of your court hearing, you can first meet with a "mediator" - a neutral person who has special training in helping people resolve their disputes. You and the other side will tell the mediator what happened and each of you will work together to find a solution.

And if you cannot resolve it, you have lost nothing. You can still go in front of the judge that same day and be better prepared to deliver your case after sorting out the issues with the mediator.

AND IT COSTS YOU NOTHING.

That is right. This Mediation Program is free to you.

WHY MEDIATE?

- When you go before the judge, you lose control over the outcome. He decides what happens, not you. And you might not like the result.
- You are limited in what you can say in the courtroom. In mediation, you can talk and agree on other issues that may not directly relate to the case but are important to you.
- Mediation is helpful between persons who have an ongoing relationship, such as family members, friends, neighbors and employees/employers.
- You might win in court, but have to chase the other side to enforce the judgment. When both sides have a say in the resolution, they are often more likely to willingly do their part.
- Court hearings are public and heard by everyone in the courtroom. Mediation is private and confidential.
- Disputes can be very emotional. Mediation can help you see your case in a different light.
- You - the people who were actually involved in the events - get to decide the best outcome for you.

**Who Better to Decide What is Best
for You than YOU?**