

Do you have a Small Claim or Summary Cause case?

Would you like to resolve it and not go back to Court?



Would you like to talk to someone about mediating your case?

Mediation is an opportunity for you to:

- use an independent mediator to help you reach a settlement that will end the case.
- have a calm, confidential talk with the other side about what happened and how it can best be resolved.
- develop solutions that may not be available through the Court;
- create a written settlement which is binding on everyone.

What sort of cases does mediation work for?

Pretty much any dispute between two people or organisations that could be the basis for a Small Claim or Summary Cause case. For example:

- someone has provided a service or product and the dispute is over quality and payment.
- where neighbours can't agree over the cost of shared responsibilities.
- between an individual and an organisation, where one side is demanding payment and the other thinks the value is unjustified.
- disputes within families over property or goods.

It is not usually suitable for road traffic accidents.

What could mediation could give you?

Reassurance - over 75 per cent are successful.

Control - you control the settlement terms

Speed – arranged in days and normally takes a few hours.

Confidentiality - all your discussions remain private.

What does mediation cost?

Mediation for a Small Claim (claim value up to £750) is **free**.
Summary Cause case (claim value from £751 to £1,500) mediations are charged at £88.13 (£75 + VAT) per party.

What happens at a mediation meeting?

You meet with the other side and the mediators in a room away from the court. If you have a solicitor you can bring him or her with you.

You will be encouraged to talk about what happened and what you would like to do to stop the court case.

The mediator will help you to talk through the problems and think of ways to solve them that aren't always based on money.

If you reach an agreement, it is prepared then and there, as a legally binding document, for you both to sign.

Who are the mediators?

Ordinary people who have had experience of disputes in their own lives and have seen how mediation can help.

They are specially trained to help with all kinds of disputes and will be there to provide impartial help to both sides.

What if it doesn't work?

You can still continue with the court case.

Few cases do, but if this happens you may also find the mediation has helped both sides to identify what the real issues are and be better able to present your case.

What now?

Talk to the Mediation Coordinator in court or through the contact details below. If you want to go ahead, when your case is called, ask the Sheriff for time to mediate.

The Court will set a date for a hearing that will allow time for the mediation to take place. If you settle the dispute at the mediation, the case can be closed without coming back to court.

Contact the Mediation Service

Please contact the Coordinator, Aileen Riddell on 01224 594869 or by E-mail aileen@catalystmediation.co.uk

Language translations and alternative formats, including Braille, audio tape and large print of this publication, are available on request.