

Q If I am already in the middle of a court case with a lawyer, won't hiring a mediator add to the overall cost?

A It is usually worth attempting mediation. If the mediation does not result in complete agreement, you may continue negotiating or continue with the court process. Research has shown that mediation helps to clarify information and reduce issues, which shortens and simplifies the court process, and often creates a foundation for an agreement later.

Q How much does mediation cost?

A Each mediator sets his/her own fee. The cost will also depend on factors such as the number of parties, complexity of issues, qualifications and experience of mediator, number of sessions and whether lawyers are participating. Normally, the cost of a successful mediation will be less than the cost of going to court.

Q Who pays for mediation?

A Usually, the parties involved share the cost. You can arrange this at the beginning of the mediation process so there are no surprises.

Have other questions?

Contact Mediate BC at

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MEDIATE BC

Are you...

experiencing conflict in your personal life or business?

hoping to resolve your differences without going to court?

looking for some help to have an effective discussion?

We are here to help you.



MediateBC
Dispute Resolution & Design



Choosing Mediation

Everyone experiences conflict. Unresolved conflict is costly, stressful, time-consuming and can cause many other problems.

What is Mediation?

Mediation is a negotiation method in which an impartial third party, called a mediator, helps the parties to resolve their issues. Mediators facilitate communication between parties. They encourage the exchange of information and urge the parties to look at the problem from different points of view and to explore ideas for dispute resolution. The parties, not the mediator, ultimately make the decisions about the terms of their agreement.

Why Mediation?

- Mediation **saves money**
- Mediation is **quicker** compared to a court action
- Mediation **works**
 - It can be used for many types of conflicts
 - It is practical, safe and private
 - It can help to maintain relationships and provide opportunities for personal growth
 - It can offer unique solutions not available through court
 - It provides settlement agreements that can be enforced
 - Settlement rates are high
 - People are very satisfied with the mediation process

Mediate BC

Mediate BC Society is a not-for-profit society committed to providing people with practical, accessible and affordable choices to prevent, manage and resolve disputes. It is your go-to hub for mediation information, services and programs.

How Do I Find a Mediator?

Contact Mediate BC to ask for information about mediators. Mediate BC manages a list of qualified civil and family mediators as well as information about the mediators on British Columbia's Child Protection Mediation Program Roster. Our mediators must meet stringent training and experience admission standards, carry insurance, take ongoing training and follow our Standards of Conduct.

You can also look for mediators on Mediate BC's website at www.mediatebc.com.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q What kind of conflict can be mediated?

A Almost everything! Examples include

Family disputes:

- parenting arrangements
- property and asset division
- child and spousal support
- estate planning
- child protection matters

Civil disputes:

- contracts
- disputes between neighbours
- business conflicts
- construction
- financial/debt
- workplace conflict

Q Is mediation a safe process for my family if we have experienced family violence?

A Mediate BC's Family Roster mediators are trained to assess for violence and to adapt the process as needed to ensure the safety of all participants.

Q Can I use mediation if I am in the middle of a court case?

A If you have received a Notice to Mediate, you must attend mediation. Otherwise, any party can suggest mediation to the other party at any time and the case could settle with the help of a mediator. Mediate BC can provide you with information on how to proceed and how to select the right mediator.

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