



West Hawai'i Mediation Center

Pre-Mediation Information for Participants

What is the Purpose of Mediation?

- provide a safe place for two parties to come together to determine the best possible solution/resolution to their issues and to write an agreement for how they will move forward productively.

What do Mediators Do?

- hold a neutral, objective third-party space
- assist both parties to communicate their needs and interests
- help parties to hear each other
- identify the issues and interests
- encourage creative brainstorming for solutions
- write-up the parties' agreement

What do Mediators NOT do:

- talk with others outside the mediation about the mediation
- determine who is "right" or "wrong"
- evaluate evidence
- do counseling
- give legal advice or tell parties what to do

What Mediation is NOT:

- proving that one party is right and the other is wrong
- convincing the other party to give up what they think is important
- changing one person's personality or values
- assigning blame or punishing someone

Expectations of the Participants

- Be committed to moving forward to find resolution.
- Be willing to clearly state your needs and interests.
- Be willing to explore and create possible solutions to resolve the conflict.
- Be willing to determine and agree on a resolution both parties agree on.

Mediation Process

1. Opening statement from mediators
2. Opening statement from both parties (a brief overview of the issues)
3. Individual sessions (identifying key issues and interests, generate options)
4. Mediator private meetings
5. Joint session for building and writing up an agreement