



Fourth District

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Pre-Filing Mediation

EXPLANATION OF MEDIATION

Mediation is a procedure in which a neutral third party, at the request of the parties to a dispute, assists them in reaching a mutually satisfactory settlement of the dispute.

In mediation, you will meet with the other party and a mediator. The mediator is not a judge and will not decide on the solution, but will help enable the parties to reach an agreement; to be part of the solution.

If the parties do not reach an agreement, the mediator will schedule the next hearing and provide both the tenant and the landlord with the proper forms.

THE MEDIATION PROCESS:

1. Filing party requests mediation
2. The request is sent to the mediation program
3. The parties are contacted by a mediation program and, if both agree, a mediation hearing is scheduled

IF SETTLED:

A settlement agreement is signed by both the parties. No court case is filed. No filing [fee](#) is paid. No court record of the action exists.

IF NOT SETTLED:

The parties are served, at the time of mediation, to appear in court in seven days. The service is done by the mediator (saves service fee). The case will be one of the first handled on the day of court (saves both parties time in court).

If parties are not willing to mediate, the case is referred back to District Court. A summons will be prepared and served directing the parties to appear in court on a future date. The case will be one of the first called on the day of court (saves both parties time in court).

BENEFITS OF MEDIATION TO THE LANDLORD:

- No filing [fee](#) if case settles
- Priority status on calendar if case does not settle (saves time in court)

BENEFITS OF MEDIATION TO THE TENANTS:

No court record of an eviction action filed against you (A record of eviction action filed against you may have a negative impact on your ability to rent for up to ten years.)

MUTUAL BENEFITS OF MEDIATION:

- Parties reach their own agreement
- Quick
- Equal say in the solution
- Low or no costs
- Convenient hours and locations
- Less stress
- Informal
- Enhances possibility of a workable future relationship

EXAMPLES OF LANDLORD/TENANT ISSUES WHERE MEDIATION MAY BE BENEFICIAL:

- Non-payment of rent
- Repair and maintenance issues
- Lease violations

PROGRAMS:

For more information or to initiate a mediation or facilitation, call one of the numbers listed below or another mediation provider of your choice. You need not file a case to use mediation.

MINNEAPOLIS MEDIATION PROGRAM:

- Serves residents of Minneapolis, St. Anthony, Richfield, Bloomington, Burnsville, Edina and Eden Prairie.
- Phone Number: 612-822-9883

- Fax Number: 612-822-9890
- Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY MEDIATION SERVICES, INC. (formerly NORTH HENNEPIN MEDIATION PROGRAM):

- Serves residents of Northern and Western Hennepin County
- Phone Number: 763-561-0033
- Fax Number: 763-561-0266
- Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions regarding this web site, please [contact the webmaster](#).