

## Why Should I Choose Mediation?

**IT'S A WIN-WIN:** People who mediate reach solutions that are mutually satisfying.

**IT'S LOW-COST:** CDSC uses a sliding fee based on each person's income.

**IT'S CONVENIENT:** Sessions are scheduled during day or evening hours.

**IT'S EFFICIENT:** Most mediations are scheduled quickly and average 2-3 sessions.

**IT'S EFFECTIVE:** 65% – 70% of people who choose to mediate reach resolution.

**MEDIATION IS CONFIDENTIAL!**

## What are the Benefits of Mediation?

- Usually less costly than litigation, both financially and emotionally.
- Allows you to retain control over the decision-making process.
- Private and confidential.
- Often helps to reduce hostility.

## How Long Does it Take to Schedule a Mediation?

Generally 2 weeks, once we have completed an initial intake/screening phone interview with each participant and all participants have agreed to try mediation.

## How Long is a Mediation Session?

Mediation sessions usually last 2-3 hours. Sometimes issues can be resolved in a single session; sometimes additional sessions are needed.

## What is the Fee for Mediation?

Fees are based on a sliding scale in accordance with the income of each participant. CDSC's fees are per session, not per hour. They range from \$40 to \$330. There is a separate fee scale for organizations, profit and not-for profit. [See the CDSC Mediation Fee Schedule.](#)

## Who are the Mediators? Can I Pick a Mediator?

CDSC's roster is comprised of over 60 mediators with diverse backgrounds such as law, social work, education, human resources, and business. Generally, two mediators are assigned for your mediation, and they work together as co-mediators. CDSC staff makes the selection of the mediators for your case, based on your type of case and their areas of specialization and availability.

## **Do I Need an Attorney?**

CDSC's philosophy is that good mediation does not replace good legal advice. You do not need a lawyer to begin your mediation. However, depending on the issues or the type of case, the mediators may recommend that each party consults with a lawyer. One of the guiding principles of mediation is "informed consent"; this means that it is important to any solid outcome that you know your legal rights and responsibilities.

## **What Issues are Not Appropriate for Mediation?**

In situations where there is domestic abuse or substance abuse, mediation may not be the right forum. Any situation in which there is a restraining order requires careful screening as to appropriateness of mediation; if you are proceeding to mediation and there is an active restraining order, you will be required to request from the court a temporary lifting of the restraining order for the purpose of mediation.

If you are looking for an investigation or an evaluation, mediation at CDSC is not the right option.

## **What is the Outcome from Mediation?**

If you reach an agreement in mediation, you and the mediators will decide whether you want to put the terms of your agreement into a signed, written document or whether you'd prefer to have a verbal agreement and/or a handshake.

## **Is an Agreement Enforceable?**

A written mediated agreement, signed by both/all participants, may have the effect of a contract and be enforceable by a court, as determined by the court.

## **Does Mediation Substitute for Legal Advice?**

No, we recommend you receive your own legal advice, before and throughout the mediation process to help you make informed decisions. Good mediation does not replace good legal advice.

