

**WHAT IS THE  
MEDIATION RESOURCE CENTER?**

The Mediation Resource Center (MRC) is a non-profit organization that provides mediation services for area residents. MRC is guided by an Advisory Committee of citizens. Funding has been provided in part by fees from clients and other contributions.

**HOW MUCH WILL MEDIATION  
COST?**

Mediation of cases filed in Small Claims Court is provided as a community service and there is no additional fee. Mediation is also available for other cases.

**WHO ARE THE MEDIATORS?**

Mediators include state-approved community volunteers and professional mediators who are members of MRC's small claims mediator panel.



**For further information regarding  
Douglas County's  
Small Claims Court  
Mediation Project  
Call  
The Mediation Resource Center  
785-856-9984**

or

[mrc@sunflower.com](mailto:mrc@sunflower.com)

Mediation Resource Center is a nonprofit community mediation program in affiliation with The Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, North Newton, KS 67117  
<http://www.bethelks.edu/kipcor>

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**SMALL CLAIMS  
COURT  
MEDIATION**

**DOUGLAS COUNTY,  
KANSAS**

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**A PROJECT OF THE**

**MEDIATION RESOURCE  
CENTER, INC.**

**785-856-9984**

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## WHAT DOES THE SMALL CLAIMS COURT MEDIATION PROJECT OFFER?

The Small Claims Court Mediation Project offers parties who have filed a case in Small Claims Court an opportunity to try to resolve their conflict through mediation instead of litigation.

## WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation is a voluntary process by which two or more parties agree to meet with a court-approved, unbiased third party (mediator) to resolve disputes through discussion, negotiation, and problem solving. The parties involved in the dispute determine the solution to their conflicts with the assistance of the mediator. The mediator never imposes a solution.

## HOW DOES MEDIATION WORK?

The mediator asks each party to describe his/her concerns while the others listen. The mediator asks questions to help identify needs and interests, and to clarify issues. Possible solutions are explored with the help of the mediator, and any agreement the parties may reach is put in writing and signed.

As in other Small Claims Court cases, attorneys may not be present during mediation.

## WHEN/WHERE DOES MEDIATION TAKE PLACE?

During court proceedings, parties can volunteer to have their cases mediated or the judge can refer selected cases to mediation. If the parties agree to use mediation, their case is mediated in a small private room adjoining the courtroom while the Small Claims Court is in session.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE MEDIATION SESSION?

The Court will be notified if a mediated agreement is reached, and it is the obligation of the parties to fulfill their agreement and to notify the Court upon completion.

If the parties are unable to arrive at an agreement, their case is returned to the judge for further judicial action.

## WHAT DISPUTES CAN BE MEDIATED IN THE SMALL CLAIMS COURT?

Many small claims cases can be mediated, including but not limited to the following:

- Neighborhood: noise, pets, trespassing, harassment, nuisance, trash;
- Family and Individual: personal property, debts, harassment, other disagreements;
- Landlord-Tenant: security deposits, repairs, property damage; and
- Consumer-Merchant: faulty repair, poor quality service or product, refunds, non-payment of bills.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SMALL CLAIMS COURT MEDIATION?

- Cases filed in Small Claims Court incur no additional fee for mediation;
- Mediation is voluntary and informal;
- Mediation gives more control to the people involved;
- Mediation seeks fairness for all parties; and
- The discussion is confidential to the mediation process, and only the written agreement is given to the judge.

## CAN MEDIATION BE REQUESTED FOR CASES THAT ARE NOT FILED IN SMALL CLAIMS COURT?

Mediation can be requested any time people need help resolving a conflict. It is not necessary that any legal proceeding be filed or contemplated. Friends, family members, organizations, agencies, legal representatives and others may make referrals to the Mediation Resource Center (explained on the next panel).

