

STATE OF COLORADO JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
TIP SHEET FOR MEDIATION / ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

If you have been referred to mediation or alternative dispute resolution (ADR) by a judge or court order, the Colorado Judicial Department strongly encourages you to select a person who can meet the needs of your case. Mediation or ADR is where a neutral and knowledgeable person assists you in resolving your dispute. A mediator or dispute resolver may, or may not, be a lawyer. He/she cannot, and will not, give you legal advice. It is your responsibility to obtain independent legal advice if you want it. In Colorado mediators and professional dispute resolvers are not licensed or regulated.

#### HOW TO FIND A MEDIATOR

- Your Judicial District may provide a list of mediators. Ask the Clerk of Court or the self-help center at your courthouse. Remember that any list provided is only a courtesy. Names on a list are not necessarily approved or certified. Also, Judicial Department employees may not give advice or a specific recommendation.
- Your local bar association may have a mediator referral program.
- The Colorado Bar Association has free directory of dispute resolution professionals. Call 303-860-1115; go to <http://www.cobar.org/For-the-Public/What-is-ADR> ; or go to <http://www.cobar.org/Find-A-Lawyer> and under “Practice” chose “Alternative Dispute Resolution” plus any other information you think is appropriate and then click on “Search”.
- The Mediation Association of Colorado is a state-wide professional dispute resolution organization that maintains a referral list of trained & experienced mediators. (303) 322-9275 or <http://www.coloradomediation.org/directory/search.cfm> .
- The Office of Dispute Resolution may provide a mediator at reduced cost depending on the type of case. Ask the Clerk of Court or self-help center, or [www.courts.state.co.us/Administration/Unit.cfm?Unit=odr](http://www.courts.state.co.us/Administration/Unit.cfm?Unit=odr), then click on “click here to request mediation”.
- Try the yellow pages, internet, or other generally-available local information source.

#### TYPICAL QUESTIONS TO ASK A MEDIATOR

- How long have you been a mediator?
- Are you a lawyer or a non-lawyer mediator?
- What formal mediation training do you have? When and where? Was it specialized?
- My case is a [type of case, such as “divorce” or “employment” or “child support”] case. What is your experience in mediating that type of case? What is your training and knowledge in that area?
- Are you a member of a professional mediation organization? Does that organization have a code of conduct or code of ethics? Does that organization have other requirements?
- Do you belong to a profession or on organization that requires a fingerprint-background check?
- Is there anything about your process that would be helpful for me to know?
- How much do you charge?