

# YOUR GUIDE TO MEDIATION

A LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND SERIES



## What is mediation?

Mediation is a way of resolving legal disputes without going to court.

## What is a mediator?

A mediator is a trained professional who helps people involved in a dispute to reach an agreement. A mediator does not decide how a dispute is resolved. A mediator remains neutral throughout the mediation process.

## Can a mediator give me advice?

No. You should talk to your solicitor who will advise you about your legal rights.

## Do I have to use a mediator?

No. Mediation is voluntary and all parties must agree to use a mediator. You can decide not to continue with mediation at any time.

## Is mediation suitable for every dispute?

No. Mediation may not be suitable for every dispute, and your solicitor will advise you which option is best for you. By law, before you start a court action, your solicitor must give you information about:

- mediation services available in the State, and
- the advantages of mediation.

## What are the advantages of mediation?

- Mediation is a flexible, informal process that can be organised at short notice.
- Mediation is often quicker and less expensive than going to court.
- All negotiations are confidential.
- An agreement reached through mediation is legally binding and has the same force as any other contract.

## What are the risks?

There is no guarantee that you will reach agreement through mediation. If this happens, you may have to go to court.

## Where can I find a mediator?

Your solicitor will give you information about mediation services available near you. You will find a list of solicitor-mediators on the Law Society website [www.lawsociety.ie/findamediator](http://www.lawsociety.ie/findamediator). If you are unable to choose a mediator, the Law Society can nominate a mediator for you.

## More information

email: [info@localsolicitor.ie](mailto:info@localsolicitor.ie)  
phone: 01 843 8138  
website: [www.localsolicitor.ie](http://www.localsolicitor.ie)



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