

ADR SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND

The District Court of Maryland's **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)** Office provides alternative dispute resolution processes in pending **civil** cases in many District Court locations. **Mediation and Settlement Conferences** are ADR processes and are offered at no charge, either *on the trial date* or *before the trial date*.*



MEDIATION – an impartial mediator supports participants in a conversation to help them try to reach a mutually agreeable resolution of their own creation. The mediator does not evaluate any aspect of the case or suggest solutions.

SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE – an experienced attorney serves as the neutral and may evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a case and may make suggestions to assist the participants with settling the case.

PreTrial ADR

- ★ **Mediation** – Civil cases are referred to one of our partner community mediation centers or law school mediation clinics for **mediation** before the trial date. An impartial mediator will meet with the participants and their attorneys (if applicable) at a time and location that is convenient to *all* participants. If the case is not resolved at the pretrial mediation, the case goes to trial on the scheduled trial date.
- ★ **Settlement Conference** – Settlement conference attorneys meet with the participants and their attorneys (if applicable) at the courthouse *before* the trial date. If the case is not resolved in the settlement conference, the case goes to trial on the scheduled trial date.

Day of Trial ADR

- ★ **Mediation** – An impartial mediator meets with the participants at the courthouse on the day of trial. If the case is not resolved in mediation, the case goes forward to trial. *If a party would like their case to go to mediation, s/he may ask the courtroom clerk, the bailiff, or the judge if a mediator is available.*
- ★ **Settlement Conference** – A settlement conference attorney meets with participants at the courthouse on the day of trial. If the case is not resolved in the settlement conference, the case goes forward to trial.

Specialty Docket ADR

- ★ **Peace Order Mediation** - Select cases may be referred to a local community mediation center or neutral mediator prior to, or at the time of, a peace order hearing. Cases involving recent or ongoing physical abuse, domestic violence, or weapons are not referred to mediation. Cases referred to mediation are carefully screened and individual interviews are conducted to determine appropriateness for mediation prior to ADR being provided.
- ★ **Municipal Infraction Mediation** – Select cases may be referred to mediation on the hearing date. Cases are screened by the issuing authority (county attorney, city attorney, etc.) to determine appropriateness for mediation prior to ADR being provided. If the case is not resolved in mediation, the case goes forward to trial.

For more information about ADR processes in the District Court,
contact the District Court of Maryland ADR Office at:

410-260-1676 or 866-940-1729 (toll-free) or www.mdcourts.gov/district/adr/home.html.

*A chart of available ADR programs, by county and Baltimore City, is provided on the opposite side of this sheet.

DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND



ADR PROGRAMS BY COUNTY

LOCATION		CIVIL PRETRIAL PROGRAMS <i>(before trial date)</i>	CIVIL DAY OF TRIAL PROGRAMS		PEACE ORDER MEDIATION
County	District #	MEDIATION	MEDIATION	SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES	
ALLEGANY	12				
ANNE ARUNDEL	7	✓	✓	✓	
BALTIMORE CITY	1	✓	✓	✓	
BALTIMORE CO.	8		✓	✓	
CALVERT	4	✓	✓	✓	
CAROLINE	3	✓			
CARROLL	10		✓	✓	
CECIL	3	✓	✓		
CHARLES	4	✓	✓	✓	✓
DORCHESTER	2	✓	✓		
FREDERICK	11		✓	✓	
GARRETT	12			**	
HARFORD	9		✓	✓	
HOWARD	10		✓	✓	
KENT	3	✓	✓		
MONTGOMERY	6	✓	✓	✓	✓
PRINCE GEORGE'S	5	✓	✓	✓	
QUEEN ANNE'S	3	✓			
SOMERSET	2				
ST. MARY'S	4	✓	✓		✓
TALBOT	3	✓			
WASHINGTON	11		✓		
WICOMICO	2	✓	✓		
WORCESTER	2				

** Programs currently in development.

Mediation and settlement conferences may be offered in select "special set" cases by the local courts. While we support the practice, currently they are not provided through the ADR Office's Day of Trial or PreTrial programs.

DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND
Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Office, 251 Rowe Blvd., Suite 307, Annapolis, MD 21401

*Subject to program and practitioner availability

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