

Mediation Participant Guidelines

About Mediation:

- Mediation is a **cooperative problem-solving** process working towards an agreement.
- Mediation is a **voluntary** process - you can take a break or leave the mediation at any time.
- Mediation is a **confidential** process - what is said here stays here and if an agreement is made, it is held in a confidential manner.

Role of the Mediator:

- The mediator does not take sides and stays impartial.
- The mediator will not make a judgement or a decision.
- The mediator facilitates the communication process to help parties come up with an agreement.

Ground Rules for Mediation:

Each person must agree to participate in **“good faith”**

- Speak openly and honestly
- Listen with an open mind; try to understand the other’s point of view
- Cooperate to solve the problem

Each person must commit to **“common courtesy”**

- Take turns talking and listening; no interruptions
- Do not use inflammatory language or put-downs

Do you understand and agree to work together to come to an agreement?

Date and Signatures: