



## The Superior Court of California, County of Orange

### CIVIL MEDIATION PROGRAM



Settle Your Case Quickly  
and Cost Effectively

## *Why Wait – Mediate!*

Mediation is an *empowering* dispute resolution process that provides many benefits to parties, including:

- Saving MONEY and TIME
- Protecting your PRIVACY and CONFIDENTIALITY
- Maintaining CONTROL OF THE OUTCOME
- Preserving RELATIONSHIPS
- Increasing SATISFACTION

### HOW DO WE GET STARTED?

Mediation is a voluntary empowering process in which the parties have control over the resolution of the case. The mediator does not make a decision about the case. The parties at any time may file a ***Stipulation to Participate in ADR*** (Alternative Dispute Resolution) form. The next step is to jointly choose a mediator (who facilitates communications among the parties) from the Court's qualified panel of mediators. Once selected, the parties complete the ***Neutral Selection and Party List*** form and mutually agree with one another and the mediator as to the date and time for the mediation.

### WHAT IS THE REDUCED COST?

Each side in the dispute will pay only \$150 to the mediator. This reduced fee will cover the costs of the mediator's preparation and up to the first two hours of the mediation session. Should the parties not settle the case within the first two hours, they may agree to continue the mediation and ask the mediator to continue the session and will be charged the mediator's normal hourly rate. After the mediation, the mediator will fill out a form for the court to let the judge know if the case has settled or not-but nothing else.

### HOW IS CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Mediation is a private and confidential process. Generally, unless agreed to by all parties, any communications made in mediation may not be disclosed to the assigned judge or to *anyone else* not involved in the mediation. This gives you the freedom to brainstorm solutions and make offers and proposals in seeking settlement.

### WHERE CAN WE OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION, FORMS AND ACCESS THE PANEL OF MEDIATORS?

You can access mediation information, download the forms and view the mediation panel on-line at: [www.OCCourts.org/ADR](http://www.OCCourts.org/ADR).