

Admission to the Civil and Family Rosters

To be admitted to the Civil and Family Rosters, mediators must meet the Society's admission requirements and go through an admission process.

Mediators are required to:

- provide background information about their training and experience
- submit letters of reference
- provide proof of insurance coverage
- agree to abide by the Society's code of conduct

You can get more information from the Society office or website.

The B.C. Mediator Roster Society

is a non-profit organization, governed by a board of directors drawn from senior mediators, lawyers, educators, government and other groups.

In addition to managing the Civil and Family Rosters, the Society manages information about mediators on British Columbia's Child Protection Mediation Program Roster.

You can contact the Society for:

- information about qualified civil, family or child protection mediators
- help in selecting a mediator
- the appointment of a mediator under one of the Notice to Mediate regulations
- information about mediation
- someone to speak to your group or organization about mediation

For assistance or more information:

Contact us at:

Telephone (Victoria): 250-356-8147

Toll Free (elsewhere in B.C.): 1-888-713-0433

Fax: 250-387-1189

E-mail: mediators@mediator-roster.bc.ca

Visit our website at:

www.mediator-roster.bc.ca

Write to us at:

British Columbia Mediator Roster Society

PO Box 9222 Stn. Prov. Govt.

Victoria, BC V8W 9J1

choosing
mediation



What is Mediation?

Mediation is a method of dispute resolution in which the parties try to resolve a dispute or reach a settlement with the assistance of a mediator. It is a private, flexible and informal process where a mediator and disputing parties work together to find a solution that is acceptable to everyone. The parties, not the mediator, make the decisions about the terms of their agreement.

Mediation is effective for resolving many different types of commercial or civil disputes. It can also be valuable in family and child protection cases.

The use of mediation is increasing as people become aware of how it can help settle disputes quickly and inexpensively.

The Mediator's Role

Mediators are impartial and have no decision-making powers.

The mediator's roles include:

- meeting with the parties and helping them to define the issues in dispute
- managing the mediation process and keeping the discussion on track
- helping parties to communicate their interests clearly and encouraging the exchange of relevant information
- exploring alternative resolutions
- helping parties overcome obstacles to reaching an agreement

Mediators can also provide a neutral and appropriate location for the mediation session.

What you can do

If you are interested in using mediation, here are some steps you can take:

- if you have a lawyer, talk to him or her about mediation
- find out if the other parties are willing to try mediation (a mediator or lawyer can do this for you)
- contact the B.C. Mediator Roster Society for information about mediation and the mediators on the Society's list of civil and family mediators
- visit the B.C. Mediator Roster Society's website for information about mediation and civil or family mediators

Choosing a Mediator

Choosing a mediator is one of the most important steps in the mediation process. All the parties must feel comfortable with the mediator's style and have confidence in the mediator's abilities.

When choosing a mediator, it is a good idea to do some research before making the selection. Find out as much as you can about the mediation process and the different mediation styles used by mediators. You can contact the B.C. Mediator Roster Society office or visit the Society's website for this information.

Contact more than one mediator and ask them for resumes and references so you can make an informed decision. Ask the mediators what they charge, and how payment is to be made.

Choosing from the Civil and Family Rosters

The B.C. Mediator Roster Society manages a list of civil or commercial mediators called the "Civil Roster", and a list of family mediators called the "Family Roster".

Mediators on the Civil Roster mediate a variety of non-family disputes such as personal injury, business, employment, construction, and negligence claims. Mediators on the Family Roster mediate issues relating to children, separation and divorce, intra-family disputes, care of elderly parents, and many other types of family matters.

All the mediators on the Civil and Family Rosters have, at a minimum, a basic level of training and experience and have agreed to follow the Society's code of conduct. They are required to remain impartial, avoid conflict of interest and conduct the mediation fairly.

Anyone can contact the Society and ask for information about mediators. You can also look for mediators on the Society website yourself. The website has a **Directory of Mediators** with detailed information about the mediators on the Civil and Family Rosters.

The Society does not set mediation fees. It is up to you and the other parties to agree with the mediator on a fee, as well as who will pay the fee.

If you and the other parties cannot agree on the selection of a mediator, the Society can help with the selection process. There is no charge for the Society's services.

