

Safe Horizon

Safe Horizon is the nation's leading nonprofit victim assistance, advocacy, and violence prevention organization. In June 2000, Safe Horizon changed its name from Victim Services to better reflect its mission and scope of services. With a staff of over 800, Safe Horizon offers over 75 programs throughout New York City's five boroughs. Our programs in community offices, shelters, courts, police precincts, and schools help over 250,000 New Yorkers each year.

Founded in 1981, the Safe Horizon Mediation Program is an extensive community-based and court-annexed dispute resolution (ADR) program. Safe Horizon mediators serve over 11,000 New Yorkers and handle more than 4,500 disputes annually. Safe Horizon Mediation is supported by the New York State Unified Court System.

For more information on Safe Horizon's services, please contact:

Safe Horizon

2 Lafayette Street, 3rd Floor
New York, New York 10007
212-577-7700
www.safehorizon.org

**Community
Mediation**

**Resolving
Conflicts
Quickly**



**Whatever Your Dispute,
We Can Help**

Is someone harassing you? Are you having trouble with your teenager? Do you have a noisy neighbor? Are you having problems with your landlord, tenant, or child's school? Need help with custody and visitation decisions? Are you involved in any conflict that you just cannot resolve on your own?

Since 1981, Safe Horizon's Mediation Program has been helping New Yorkers resolve their disputes instead of entering into lengthy and expensive court processes. Benefits of mediation include:

- No cost to the participants
- A confidential and private setting
- Unlimited time to explain the situation
- A less stressful experience than court
- A quicker route to resolution
- An opportunity for you to control the outcome
- A neutral mediator

Mediation agreements are tailored to your unique circumstances, unlike other legal proceedings. However, mediation does not deny your right to go to court at any time.



Cases We Resolve

- Harassment
- Conflicts among neighbors
- Noise complaints
- Family conflicts
- Arguments between youth
- Parent/teen conflicts (PINS)
- Intergenerational conflicts
- Child custody and visitation
- School conflicts
- Special Education disputes
- Relationship disputes
- Property disputes
- Housing disputes
- Dog and pet issues
- Minor criminal complaints
- Money disputes
- Small business disputes
- Breach of contract
- Conflicts between community groups
- Quality of life issues
- Lemon Law Arbitration

And many more....

WHAT IS MEDIATION?

The goal of mediation is to provide a fair environment where people in conflict can discuss their concerns in an informal private meeting. The mediator, an impartial third person, guides the participants through a series of problem solving steps so they can find their own solutions. The mediator does not make a decision, like a judge, but rather helps the parties to:

- Discuss their viewpoints
- Generate new options
- Create effective solutions

Most mediations result in some form of agreement.



WHO PARTICIPATES IN MEDIATION?

Disputants:

People directly involved in the conflict must come to the mediation session. These may include neighbors, parents, teens, friends, co-workers, landlords, tenants, roommates, acquaintances, school personnel.

Witnesses/Support:

It is not necessary for witnesses and support persons to attend mediation. However, participants can bring anyone to the mediation center who might be helpful to the resolution. In some cases witnesses or support persons may be invited to participate in the mediation session.

Lawyers:

Lawyers are not required in mediation as the process encourages participants to resolve disputes on their own. Individuals are always entitled to consult an attorney before or during mediation, and may postpone signing an agreement to obtain legal advice. If a disputant feels it is necessary, an attorney may accompany him/her to the mediation session.

Advocates:

Professional advocates may accompany disputants to the mediation session.

Mediator:

Safe Horizon mediators come from a wide range of professional backgrounds including law, psychology, social work, business, and education. Mediators are certified by the program after completing extensive training and apprenticeship.

Referrals and Appointments:

HOW TO SCHEDULE MEDIATION

It usually takes about 10 days to set up a mediation appointment. This allows for time to contact the other people involved and assign a mediator. Procedures for scheduling vary. Please contact the mediation center nearest you for more information.

Payment:

All mediation services are free of charge.

Accommodating and Flexible Hours:

Mediation services are provided in the morning, afternoon, and evening, Monday through Friday. Please call for schedules.

• In Manhattan:

WHERE TO FIND US

Manhattan Mediation Center
346 Broadway, Suite 400W
New York, NY 10013
212 577 1740, Fax 212 577 1748

Midtown Community Court
Mediation Program
314 West 54th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10019
212 484 2715, Fax 212 586 1144

• In Brooklyn:

Brooklyn Mediation Center
210 Joralemon Street, Room 618
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718 834 6671, Fax 718 834 6681

East New York Mediation Program
3021 Atlantic Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11208
718 348 0943, Fax 718 348 1309

Red Hook Community Justice Center
Mediation Program
88 Visitation Place
Brooklyn, NY 11231
718 923 8200 ext. 8534, Fax 718 923 8223

Brooklyn Family Court Mediation
283 Adams Street, Room 404
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718 222 8408, Fax 718 643 6615

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