

ARE THERE ADVANTAGES TO MEDIATING AT THE MEDIATION CENTERS?

Yes. Some advantages to consider about mediating **before** filing a claim are:

- **Convenience.** Small Claims Court assigns you a date and time to appear. You must wait your turn until your case can be mediated and/or tried. At **Kuikahi Mediation Center (KMC)** and **West Hawaii Mediation Center (WHMC)**, there is flexibility in selecting the time. (You do not have to mediate again at Court if you tried mediating at KMC or WHMC.)
- **Time.** Due to the large number of cases in court and the set time period for small claims, mediation at court is usually limited to twenty or thirty minutes. Mediating at KMC or WHMC allows you to take the time you feel is necessary.
- **Cost.** KMC and WHMC charge a nominal administrative fee. Small Claims Court requires payment of a filing fee and a charge if a sheriff is used to serve the other party with the complaint.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR MEDIATION

Effective mediation requires two-way communication. This means:

- Honestly expressing your needs
- Listening to what the other party needs

The keys to a successful mediation are:

- Preparation
- Cooperation
- Flexibility

We suggest the following approaches to help reach an agreement:

- Approach mediation with a positive attitude
- Be open to new ideas or suggestions
- Seek agreement, not blame or revenge
- Look to the future, not the past
- Express yourself and listen carefully to what others say
- Help others understand you, and do your best to understand them
- Bring all relevant documents



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Going to Small Claims Court?

What you should know about mediation before you file your claim or go to Small Claims Court.

Mediation. It Works!

