

## MEDIATION OVERVIEW / DISCLOSURES

- ***What is mediation?***

Mediation is a process whereby a neutral third person called a mediator acts to encourage and facilitate the resolution of a dispute between two or more parties. It is an informal and non-adversarial process with the objective of helping the disputing parties reach a mutually acceptable and voluntary agreement. In mediation, decision making authority rests with the parties. The role of the mediator includes, but is not limited to, assisting the parties in identifying issues, fostering joint problem solving, and exploring settlement alternatives.

- ***What does this mean for me as the mediator?***

I am a neutral. I cannot give legal advice or force you to do anything.

- ***What does this mean for you as the party?***

This is not Court. This is not an arbitration. This is a process that is informal and self-directed by the parties wherein you as the parties hold your own decision making authority.

- ***Is mediation confidential?***

Yes! Everything that we discuss here today will be confidential and cannot be disclosed outside of this mediation process.

General Exceptions: Ongoing criminal activities, child abuse and elder abuse.

- ***What is a caucus?***

This is where the parties will go into separate rooms (breakout rooms). This gives me as the mediator a chance to speak with each party separately. This is confidential. I will not disclose anything that you tell me unless you advise that I can tell the other side.