

Can any matter go to mediation?

Any matter can be assigned to mediation except the following:

1. Family matters
2. Insolvency (Winding up of Companies)
3. Non-contentious Probate Proceedings
4. Criminal matters

What happens if I do not want my matter to go to mediation?

An application can be made to the Court setting out good and substantial reason as to why the matter should not go to mediation.

What happens if the Mediation Session does not work out?

The matter will be referred back to the Court and heard in a normal way.

What will I have to pay for a Mediation Session?

\$500.00 First Session (3hrs)

\$100.00 Every hour after

\$200.00 Room Fee (per session if Venue is UWI)

Where will the Mediation Sessions take place?

Sessions will take place at either:

1. Supreme Court of Belize or
2. University of the West Indies (Open Campus, Belize City)

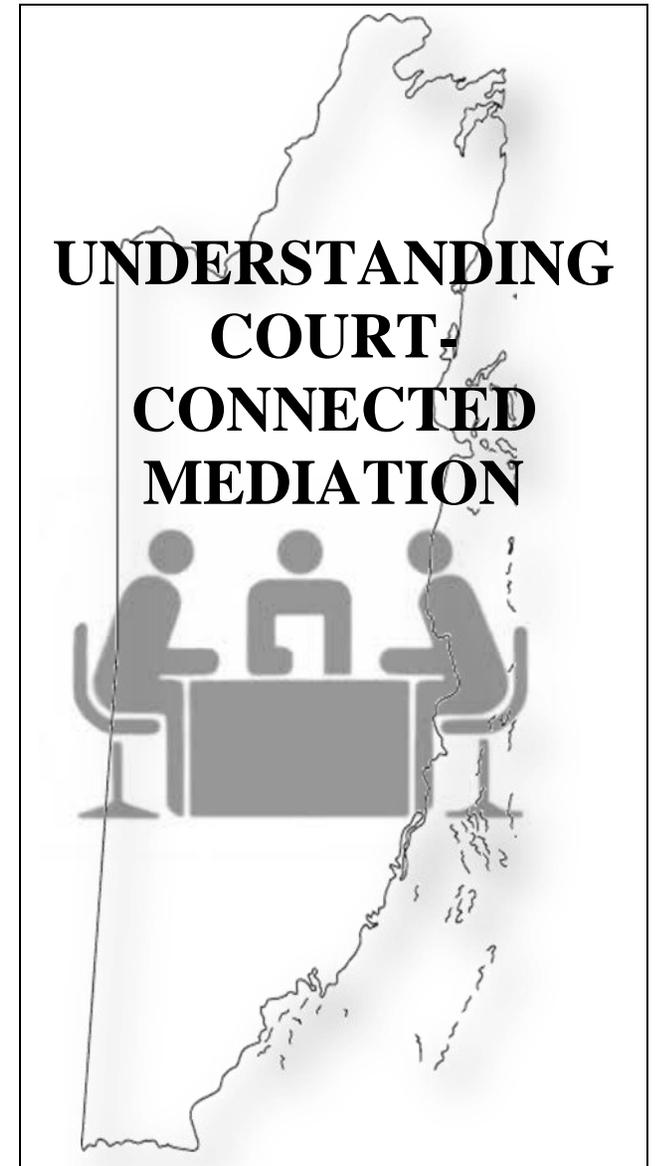
For more information on mediation feel free to contact the Court's Mediation Coordinator:

Tel No: 227-7377 or send an email at legalassistant@supremecourtofbelize.gov.bz

or visit the Court's website at belizejudiciary.org.



Supreme Court of Belize



What is Mediation?

Mediation is the process by which a neutral third party facilitates negotiation amongst parties to help them settle their disputes.



How does Court-Connected Mediation work?

Under Court-Connected Mediation, Judges refer matters before the Court to the Mediators for settlement.

What does a Mediator do?

A mediator assists the parties referred to mediation to resolve their dispute(s). The Mediator does not solve but assists the parties to solve their own disputes.



Why Court-Connected Mediation?

Reasons	Mediation (Pro)	Litigation (Con)
Privacy	Mediation sessions are exclusive to the mediation parties and are held in private.	Matters in Court form public records and proceedings can be viewed by the public.
Cost	Mediation sessions are shorter, do not require extensive preparation and attract less cost.	Preparation for litigation is usually voluminous and costly.
Empowerment, Control & Outcome	Parties have a say in what the outcome/solution is.	The Judge decides and there is usually a 'winning' party and 'losing' party.
Time & Convenience	Mediation sessions are scheduled swiftly, require less time and allow parties to fix convenient times.	Litigation is dependent on the Court's scheduling and can become a very lengthy, drawn out process.
Satisfaction	Parties can negotiate on their own terms to create a 'win-win' approach to the dispute.	The outcome is restricted to the legal solution to the issues.
Relationships	Setting is more relaxed and relationships are more likely to be salvageable/preserved.	Creates an adversarial setting that can be damaging to relationships.
Compliance	Parties usually comply with agreements when they play an active role in the decision making process.	Enforcement proceedings in the Courts can oftentimes become another long drawn-out process.

How do I know I can trust a Mediator to adequately deal with my matter?

Each Mediator is qualified to mediate because he/she:

1. Has undergone a 40 hrs Mediation training program as mandated by the Court.
2. Agrees to comply with the court rules and Code of Ethics for Mediators.
3. Is academically qualified.
4. Has passed the rigorous screening process by the Selection Board and received the approval of the Chief Justice to appear on the Roster of Mediators.



Do I get to choose my own Mediator?

Parties are allowed to agree on a Mediator. The Judge will appoint a Mediator only where an agreement has not been reached.



NOTE: Agreements arrived at in mediation are binding and enforceable in the Courts.