

What is mediation?

Mediation is a process in which a neutral mediator facilitates the parties' negotiations, with the view to helping them arrive at a mutually acceptable solution. The focus of mediation is on finding solutions that will meet all the parties' concerns. Unlike a judge or an arbitrator, the mediator does not make decisions on who is at fault.

Why Mediation?

Mediation is a good alternative to litigation with these benefits.

Saves time and costs

At this stage, lawyers need not be involved, and most mediated disputes can reach settlement within a shorter time. Litigation meanwhile can incur high legal fees and drawn-out proceedings that take months or even years to conclude.

Control over outcomes

You are free to look for creative and sensible ways to resolve your dispute with the help of the mediator. As mediation is a voluntary process, you can choose to settle only if both sides are satisfied with the proposed terms.

Preserves relationships

The mediator will encourage you to communicate openly and express how you think the relationship should move forward beyond the dispute. Hence, mediation is very useful if both sides have to continue to work together or have a long-standing relationship and do not wish to sour the relationship through litigation.

Confidentiality

Subject to the Mediation Act, matters discussed will be kept confidential. Matters discussed and disclosed during the mediation process cannot be used against the other party in litigation or in arbitration.



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About Us

Established in 2021, the SMU Pro Bono Centre Mediation Clinic is administered by the SMU Pro Bono Centre with the help of professional mediators and SMU Law students. The clinic was proposed and set up by students from the SMU Mediation and Negotiation Club. The clinic provides pro bono (free of charge) mediation services to the financially disadvantaged in Singapore.

The SMU Pro Bono Centre Mediation Clinic operates on an appointment basis throughout the year (except for the months of April and November), depending on the availability of the mediator and the parties.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who are the mediators?

The SMU Pro Bono Centre Mediation Clinic will arrange for a volunteer mediator accredited by the Singapore International Mediation Institute (SIMI) to facilitate the discussions between the parties.

Can I bring along a family member or friend?

As mediation is aimed at providing a safe space, we will need to seek approval from all parties if there are additional people joining the mediation session.

Is the mediation free?

Yes, it is free of charge.

How do I apply?

To make an application, please send an email to mediationclinic@sa.smu.edu.sg. Please include a brief description of the dispute in your email, and we will follow up with a review of whether the case is suitable for mediation.

Please note that an SMU Law student will be present to help with administrative issues during the session.

An overview of the mediation process

During Mediation

- During the mediation process, the mediator will give both parties the opportunity to speak about the dispute and will facilitate the discussion of key issues.
- The mediator will then help to identify the issues each party is most concerned with and look at ways to resolve the dispute.
- The mediator may arrange for further sessions if he deems it necessary.

After Mediation

- If parties reach a settlement, the mediator will meet both parties together to check and confirm what they have agreed on. The mediator will record the terms and the case will be closed.

For more info

