

Hello, my name is Jody, I'm a housing specialist here with the Court and this is mediation. Mediation is a voluntary process where the parties come together to attempt to resolve the issues raised in their case. If at any point either side feels that mediation is not working or that they would no longer like to participate, simply let me know and we will stop and the case will move forward and be scheduled.

Anything said during mediation in regards to settlement negotiation is confidential. What that means is that this process cannot be recorded and anything said cannot be repeated and I cannot be called to testify as to what someone said, didn't say or may have said during mediation.

Last, but not least I do not represent the plaintiff or the defendant. I am a neutral party who is here to facilitate the conversation and help the parties reach an agreement that works for everyone. In order to do that, I may at times separate the parties in order to speak with you individually. I will also ask that while we are all together that only one party speak at a time. Please do not interrupt anyone while they are speaking. If someone says something that you disagree with, or would like to give some more insight on, please take note of that issue as you will be given an opportunity to respond. If at any time you would like to speak with me or your attorney separately please just let me know and I can facilitate that for you.

Now before we start I do need permission to sign your name to a form that indicates you are willing to participate in this mediation process because it is voluntary. Please understand that by signing this form you are not committing yourself to any terms regarding your case.

Now that we have this information, we can begin the mediation. Plaintiff, this is your case, I'm going to ask you to give me a little background on why we are here and what it is that you are looking for today.