

Mandatory Small Claims Mediation Pilot Program

The North Las Vegas Justice Court is testing a pilot program to determine the effectiveness of requiring mediation in Small Claims cases, pending the Nevada Supreme Court's formal approval of a proposed local rule.

Certain cases are automatically exempt from the mandatory mediation requirement, including cases arising under NRS Chapter 604A ("Deferred Deposit Loans, High-Interest Loans, Title Loans, and Check-Cashing Services") and NRS Chapter 97A.165 ("Debt Evidenced by Credit Card"). Cases filed by inmates against the Nevada Department of Corrections are also automatically exempt from the mandatory mediation requirement.

Parties in all Small Claims cases are required to attend mediation. Mediation is an informal dispute settlement process in which a neutral third person called a mediator helps the parties communicate about the issues and options for resolving differences in order to reach an agreement on all or part of the issues in dispute. The parties keep the right to make decisions about their case; the mediator guides the process but does not decide the case. The mediator assists the parties in identifying issues, encouraging joint problem-solving and exploring settlement alternatives. Please plan on spending 2-3 hours in mediation, although some matters can be mediated in less time. Only decision-makers may participate in mediation. You may bring evidence to share with the other party, but witnesses are not typically invited into the mediation room.

This free mediation service is offered by well-trained volunteers and staff of the Clark County Courts Neighborhood Justice Center. The Neighborhood Justice Center (NJC) was created through legislation approved by the Nevada State Legislature in 1991 to provide citizens, businesses, and organizations an alternative to the Court process for conflict resolution. If you would like more information about the Neighborhood Justice Center, you may wish to review their website:
http://www.clarkcountycourts.us/lvjc/NJC/NJC_CMP.htm

If a settlement has been agreed on by all parties, the mediator will complete the Court Mediation Agreement form and have all parties sign the form. The original Agreement will become part of the case file. The Neighborhood Justice Center will give each party a copy and keep a copy.

Cases that were not successfully resolved by mediation will be schedule for a Small Claims Bench Trial.