

# DisputeResolution

CENTER of KING COUNTY

## Dear Small Claims Court Case Parties:

A small claims action involving you has been filed in the King County District Court.

**The Court strongly encourages you to settle this suit through mediation and has arranged for the *Dispute Resolution Center of King County (DRC)* to provide this assistance at no cost to either of you. To set up a mediation call (206) 443-9603.**

The DRC is a non-profit organization that has provided free or low-cost conflict resolution & mediation services to the community since 1987. **The DRC is not part of the court system.**

***IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT THE COURT, PLEASE CALL (206) 205-9200.***

### How Do I Set Up a Mediation?

**TO RESOLVE THIS DISPUTE OUTSIDE OF COURT, CALL THE DRC IMMEDIATELY** at 206-443-9603. The more time we have before to your trial date, the better. Otherwise, on the day of your hearing, the DRC has mediators available at the courtroom to conduct mediations before the trial

### What is Mediation?

- **Mediation is a free, voluntary and confidential** meeting between you, the other party, and a professionally trained, neutral mediator.
- The mediator helps parties work together to create mutually agreeable solutions without offering legal advice or an evaluation of the case.
- If agreements are made, the mediator will write up the agreement using the parties' own words, and both will leave the mediation with a contract.
- Choosing to mediate does not affect your right to a trial if you are unable to reach an agreement with the other party.
- If one of the parties does not follow the agreement, this document can be presented to the court with the request that it be converted into an enforceable judgment.

### Why Should I Choose Mediation?

- Mediation enables **parties to determine the outcome** of their conflict, rather than being forced to accept a judgment that may leave everyone unsatisfied.
- Unlike a court proceeding, **mediation is confidential** & does not become part of the public record.
- Courts are limited to granting or denying monetary judgments. **Mediation is much more flexible.**
- With a mediated agreement, a party may agree to complete a job, return an item of property, or pay money back using a payment plan.

We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your interest in our services!

**King County Court: (206) 205-9200      Dispute Resolution Center: (206) 443-9603**

## The Dispute Resolution Center of King County

4649 Sunnyside Ave. N, Suite 520 ~ Seattle, WA 98103 ~ Phone: 206-443-9603 ~ Fax: 206-443-9737 ~ [www.kcdrc.org](http://www.kcdrc.org)  
(Revised 09/24/2009)