

Mediation Services for Dane County Eviction Cases

What is the eviction mediation program?

Mediation is a confidential and voluntary process that can occur if both you and your landlord agree to try it. A neutral mediator from Tenant Resource Center listens and helps both sides understand and discuss the issues, look for areas of agreement, and find possible solutions. The mediator can help you and your landlord come to an agreement that gets put into writing and resolves the eviction case, which is often called a Stipulated Dismissal.

The mediator cannot guarantee that the problem will be solved, give legal advice, or take sides. What happens with mediation is up to you and your landlord. If either you or your landlord choose not to try mediation, then the Court Commissioner will discuss the case with you and set it for trial. If you try mediation and are not able to reach agreements resolving the case, then the case proceeds with the Court Commissioner and Judge. There is no penalty for choosing not to mediate or for trying mediation but not reaching an agreement.

The Program is available for all people with eviction cases in Dane County court. The program is FREE.

Do I need a lawyer to participate in mediation?

No. However, each party can choose to have a lawyer represent them during mediation.

How do I ask for mediation?

Mediation is always available at the Court hearing. Attend your Zoom hearing on time and ask the Court Commissioner and volunteer mediators to try mediation.

If you and your landlord both agree, you can also call Tenant Resource Center's mediation line together to try to mediate before the Court hearing. That number is 608-257-0006, extension 8. Or you can email mediation@tenantresourcecenter.org.

Free Legal Representation and Other Help in Eviction Cases

Owners and renters in an eviction case may have a lawyer assist them with the case. The Court does not appoint attorneys in evictions cases, but you may hire one or seek free representation if available. Any party in an eviction case may call the State Bar of Wisconsin's Lawyer Referral and Information Service at (800) 362-9082, which can make a referral to an attorney in the area.

Some renters may qualify for FREE LEGAL SERVICES. If you qualify for free legal services, a lawyer may be available to represent you, help you with understanding the court process, or can help you seek new housing.

For more information or assistance with these programs, tenants and landlords can call the Tenant Resource Center at 608-257-0006 x7.