

Common Questions After Mediation

Mediation is one type of alternative dispute resolution, also known as “ADR”. This video is the fourth in a four-part series on mediation. This video discusses common issues that sometimes happen after mediation.

Watch the Video



Can I Change the Agreement Once it is Signed?

- In general, your mediated agreement is a binding agreement between you and the other party.
- Discuss the changes you want to make with the other party. You can return to mediation if you need help working out the changes.
- If you agree on the changes, be sure to put them in writing and have both parties sign it. If your agreement was made part of a court order, then you may need to inform the court of any changes.
- If the other party does not agree to the changes you want to make, then you must follow the agreement as it is written or seek advice from a lawyer about your options.
- In certain cases, you can ask the court to change the terms of the agreement. This is most common in child custody cases where the agreement has been included as part of a court order.
- Ask a lawyer if you have questions about following or changing the agreement.

The other person isn't following the agreement. What do I do?

- Try to communicate with that person. Understanding why they are not following the agreement may help solve the problem. If the other person is willing, you can return to mediation to discuss the problem.
- Review the agreement closely. Well written agreements state what happens if a person breaks the agreement. You can then take actions based on what the agreement says should happen in this situation.
- You may be able to ask the court to intervene. This may involve filing a new case or asking the court to reopen an old case.
- The court process can be complex. Ask a lawyer if you have questions about following or changing the agreement.



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Finding Help

- To find a mediator, please see Video 2 in this series, “How Do I Find a Mediator?” or visit [mdcourts.gov/macro/adr-resourceguide](https://www.mdcourts.gov/macro/adr-resourceguide)
- If you are not already represented by a lawyer, you can get free advice from the Maryland Court Help Centers. You can speak to or chat live with lawyers at the Help Center on most weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. These lawyers cannot represent you in court, but they can give you brief advice. Call 410-260-1392. Or chat live at <https://www.mdcourts.gov/helpcenter>.



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