

# PENINSULA DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER

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## What is a Dispute Resolution Center?

Peninsula Dispute Resolution Center (PDRC) was founded to provide low cost conflict resolution services to the North Olympic Peninsula. Court proceedings are expensive and time-consuming ways to settle disputes. PDRC offers an alternative.

Mediation services are voluntary and confidential. PDRC does not offer counseling, therapy or give legal advice.

Trained mediators listen carefully to both parties and promote communication between them. The mediator's job is not to decide who is right or wrong, but to assist the clients in reaching their own solution.

Agreements are put into writing and signed by all parties. The resulting

document can be legally binding. It is, however, an agreement that has been reached by the parties involved, not one that has been imposed by the mediator, the court system or other outside interests.

## What kinds of disputes are handled?

Almost any dispute can be mediated. The following disputes are often successfully mediated:

Neighbor/Neighbor  
Landlord/Tenant  
Consumer/Merchant  
Student/Parent/Teacher  
Child Custody/Visitation  
Parenting Plans  
Employer/Employee  
Debtor/Creditor  
Small Claims  
Court-Agency Referrals  
Land/Property use  
Large Group Facilitation

## Mediation

Professionally trained volunteer mediators meet with parties in a safe setting to assist them in reaching mutually agreeable solutions. The parties maintain control over the dispute and the solution; the mediator facilitates the process.

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## Arbitration

In suitable cases, arbitration is available as an alternative method of dispute resolution. Both parties present their side to a neutral third party who then makes a legally binding decision.

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## Speakers

Speakers and demonstrations of the mediation process can be provided to schools, service clubs, agencies, and other organizations.

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## Phone Conciliation

PDRC telephone staff acts as an impartial go-between in helping parties work out their differences. This is an effective tool when communication between parties has broken down.

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## Training

Basic conflict resolution skills training is available to individuals, organizations, and potential PDRC volunteers.

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## Fees

Fees for mediation services are on a sliding scale based on income level. Fees are much less than usual attorney's fees. No one will be turned away for lack of ability to pay.

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