

THINGS TO KNOW FOR MEDIATION:

What happens in mediation?

In mediation, a housing court employee sits down with you and your landlord (or your landlord's attorney) and tries to come up with an agreement. Remember, this agreement is **BINDING**. If you break the agreement, you will be evicted.

What happens if my landlord or my landlord's attorney approaches me?

Speaking to your landlord or your landlord's attorney without a housing court employee is **NOT** mediation. Remember, ANY agreement you sign is **BINDING**. You have the **RIGHT** to have a housing court employee sit down with you to *help*. You do **NOT** have to speak to the landlord or the landlord's attorney alone.

DO NOT agree to any amount you cannot pay.
DO NOT agree to move if you have nowhere to go.

KNOW that you do not have to go to mediation:

1. Mediation is **VOLUNTARY**
2. You have the **CHOICE** to go to **MEDIATION** OR to **TRIAL** before a judge.
3. If you feel pressured at any point to sign a bad agreement, **YOU MAY ASK TO SEE A**

JUDGE.

KNOW what you want:

- To stay in your apartment – just because your landlord says you have to leave does not mean you must
- The landlord to make repairs to your apartment
- Money for having lived with bad conditions
- Time to find another place to go
- Moving expenses paid
- First month's rent and security deposit
- A refund of your security deposit
- A good reference for the next place you live
- To postpone (*continue*) the trial date for 6 months

KNOW whether the agreement is fair:

Is the agreement you come up with in mediation **FAIR**?

WARNING: IF YOU SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO MAKE PAYMENTS, YOU **MUST** MAKE THE PAYMENTS EVEN IF THERE ARE BAD CONDITIONS IN THE UNIT.

IN EVERY CASE: GO TO THE **ATTORNEY OF THE DAY TABLE** ON THE **5TH FLOOR** OF THE COURTHOUSE TO REVIEW ANY AGREEMENT YOU COME UP WITH.