SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF TULARE

CIVIL LEGAL FILINGS

www.tularesuperiorcourt.ca.gov

Telephone: (559) 730-5000 – Visalia

(559) 782-3700 – South County Justice Center

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PACKAGE

This is Tulare County Superior Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Package. The package contains:

1. The court's current ADR Referral List;

2. Tulare County Superior Court's Local Rule 600 on Case Management Conferences;

3. Information about ADR.

At the time a civil complaint is filed, the clerk will issue a hearing date and time for the Case Management Conference (CMC). This information is placed on the front page of the complaint. Plaintiff must serve notice of the CMC hearing on each defendant with the summons and complaint.

All parties appearing in the action are ordered to meet and confer prior to the CMC date regarding an agreed upon mediator and mediation date and time under Local Rule 600(a)(5).

Each party must file and serve a CMC statement on Judicial Council form CM-110 no later than 15 calendar days before the CMC hearing under California Rules of Court, rule 3.725 and Local Rule 600(a)(6).

Counsel and unrepresented parties are required to be present, either in person; by remote appearance as permitted by law (see https://www.tulare.courts.ca.gov/online-services/request-remote-hearings for information on remote appearances); or by telephonic appearance pursuant to The Superior Court of Tulare County, Local Rules, rule 108, and must have: (1) sufficient information and understanding of the case to evaluate it accurately, and (2) sufficient authority to enter into binding agreements.

Please be advised that monetary and/or terminating sanctions shall be imposed against parties and counsel who fail to comply with state and local rules regarding case management conferences without good cause.

CHAPTER 6 – MANAGING CIVIL CASES

Rule 600 – Case Management Conference

(a) The Judicial Council has implemented state rules for the management of civil cases (Cal. Rules of Court, Chapter 2 Trial Court Management of Civil Cases, rules 10.900, et. Seq.).

In recognition of the state rules requiring the court to implement a case management Plan, the court elects to follow California Rules of Court, rule 3.714.

(1) At the time the complaint is filed, the clerk will issue a hearing date for the Case Management Conference (CMC) to plaintiff that is no less than 120 days after the filing of the complaint. Plaintiff must serve a Notice of CMC along with the summons and complaint.

(2) Any party who files and serves a cross-complaint prior to the CMC must serve on each cross-defendant who is a new party to the action, a copy of the Notice of CMC along with the summons and cross-complaint. If a new cross-defendant is served after the initial CMC, the cross-complainant must serve the new cross-defendant with notice of any pending CMC, any assigned mediation date, trial, or settlement conference dates, and any other dates set by the court, or orders made at the CMC.

(3) If the plaintiff adds a new defendant or identifies a fictitiously named defendant after the initial CMC, along with the summons and complaint, plaintiff must serve the newly named defendant with notice of any pending CMC, any pending mediation date, any assigned trial and settlement conference dates, and any other dates set by the court, or orders made at the CMC.

(4) Proof of service of Notice of the CMC must be filed with the court within 60 days from the date the complaint is filed and may be included in the proof of service of the summons and complaint or cross-complaint.

(5) This court has found that mediation is highly desirable and orders the parties to meet and confer prior to the CMC date regarding an agreed upon mediator and mediation date and time. A list of mediators and their fees are provided by the court in its ADR package which can be obtained on the court's website at https://www.tulare.courts.ca.gov/divisions/civil. The mediator must be agreed upon before the CMC and the mediation date and time cleared with the mediator so the court may enter the date in the court's minute order.

(6) Under California Rules of Court, rule 3.725, no later than 15 calendar days before the date set for the CMC, each party must file a CMC statement and serve it on all other parties in the case. Parties must use the mandatory CMC Statement (Judicial Council form CM-110). All applicable items on the form must be completed.

(7) In lieu of each party's filing a separate case management statement, any two or more parties may file a joint statement.

(b) Presence Required – Counsel and unrepresented parties are required to be present, either in person; by remote appearance as permitted by law (see https://www.tulare.courts.ca.gov/online-services/request-remote-hearings for information on remote appearances); or by telephonic appearance pursuant to The Superior Court of Tulare County, Local Rules, rule 108, and must have: (1) sufficient information and understanding of the case to evaluate it accurately, and (2) sufficient authority to enter into binding agreements such as the diversion of the case to arbitration, including binding arbitration, the setting of a trial date and mandatory settlement conference date, the dismissal of doe defendants or other parties, and the setting of a further case management conference.

(c) Compliance – Failure to attend the case management conference will result in the court making whatever orders and imposing whatever sanctions as may be necessary and appropriate to obtain compliance with these rules, including but not limited to, a waiver of the right to a jury trial and a waiver of the right to object to a referral to arbitration or other alternate dispute resolution procedure.

(d) Waiver of Notice – When all parties are present at the case management conference and a trial date and settlement conference dates are agreed to by the parties or ordered by the court, such presence is an effective waiver of a separate or formal notice of settlement conference and trial date. (01/01/03) (Revised 01/01/07, 01/01/09, 07/01/11, 07/01/17, 07/01/24)

Alternative Dispute Resolution

There are different processes available to settle lawsuits without having to go to trial. The most common forms of ADR are Mediation, Arbitration, and Case Evaluation. In ADR, a trained, impartial person decides disputes or helps the parties reach resolutions of their disputes for themselves. The persons are neutrals who are normally chosen by the disputing parties or by the court. Neutrals can help parties resolve disputes without having to go to court.

Advantages of ADR

- Often quicker than going to trial, a dispute may be resolved in a matter or days or weeks instead of months or years.

- Often less expensive, saving the litigants court costs, attorney's fees and expert fees.

- Can permit more participation, allowing the parties the opportunity to tell their side of the story with more control over the outcome.

- Allows for flexibility in choice of ADR processes and resolution of the dispute.

- Fosters cooperation by allowing the parties to work together with the neutral to resolve the dispute and mutually agree to a remedy.

- Often less stressful than litigation. Most people have reported a high degree of satisfaction with ADR.

Because of these advantages, many parties choose ADR to resolve disputes instead of filing a lawsuit. Even after a lawsuit has been filed, the court can refer the dispute to a neutral before the lawsuit becomes costly. ADR has been used to resolve disputes even after trial when the result is appealed.

Disadvantages of ADR

ADR may not be suitable for every dispute.

If ADR is binding, the parties normally give up most court protections, including a decision by a judge or jury under formal rules of evidence and procedure, and review for legal error by an appellate court. ADR may not be effective if it takes place before the parties have sufficient information to resolve the dispute. The neutral may charge a fee for his or her services. If the dispute is not resolved through ADR, the parties may then have to face the usual and traditional costs, such as attorney's fees and expert fees.

Lawsuits must be brought within specified periods of time, known as Statutes of Limitations. Parties must be careful not to let a Statute of Limitation run while a dispute is in an ADR process.

The Most Common Types of ADR

Mediation

In mediation, the mediator (a neutral) assists the parties in reaching a mutually acceptable resolution of their dispute. Unlike lawsuits or some other types of ADR, the mediator does not decide how the dispute is to be resolved. The parties do. It is a cooperative process in which the parties work together toward a resolution that tries to meet everyone's interests, instead of working against each other. Mediation normally leads to better relations between the parties and to lasting resolutions. It is particularly effective when parties have a continuing relationship, such as neighbors or businesses. It also is very effective where personal feelings get in the way of a resolution. Mediation normally gives the parties a chance to freely express their positions. Mediation can be successful for victims seeking restitution from offenders. When there has been violence between the parties, a mediator can meet separately with the parties.

Arbitration

In arbitration, the arbitrator (a neutral) reviews evidence, hears arguments, and makes a decision (award) to resolve the dispute. This is very different from mediation whereby the mediator helps the parties reach their won resolution. Arbitration normally is more informal, quicker, and less expensive than a lawsuit. In a matter of hours, an arbitrator often can hear a case that otherwise may take a week in court to try. This is because the evidence can be submitted by documents rather than by testimony.

There are Two Types of Arbitration in California

1. **Private arbitration** by agreement of the parties involved in the dispute. This type takes place outside of the court and normally is binding. In most cases, "binding" means that the arbitrator's decision (award) is final and there will not be a trial or an opportunity to appeal the decision.

2. **Judicial arbitration** ordered by the court. The arbitrator's decision is not binding unless the parties agree to be bound. A party who does not like the award may file a request for trial with the court within a specified time. However, if that party does not receive a more favorable result at trial, the party may have to pay a penalty.

**** A Current list of approved mediators is provided on pages 6 – 8. ****

To request a copy of a mediator's resume please contact:

Court Administration
Mail: 221 S. Mooney Blvd, Room 303
Visalia, CA 93291
Phone: (559) 730-5000 ext. 1110
Email: administration@tulare.courts.ca.gov

ADR REFERRAL LIST
April 8, 2026

NAME	HOURLY RATE
Julian Alwill 27 W Anapamu St. #289 Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Phone: (805) 845-1190 Fax: (805) 456-0132 Email: julian@ralegal.com Website: www.smartmediate.com	Half day $5,000 Full day $8,500 Expenses: $500 for travel for non-Zoom mediations
Honorable Howard R. Broadman (Ret.) 300 N. Willis Visalia, CA. 93291 Phone: (559) 738-1800 Fax: (559) 738-1102 Email: judgebroadman@judgebroadman.com Website: https://www.judgebroadman.com	Half Day: $3,500 Full Day: $7,500 For full fee schedule go to judgebroadman.com
John S. Burton P.O. Box 27455 Fresno, CA 93729 Phone: (559) 840-2693 Cell: (831) 334-1367 Email: jburton@johnsburton.com Website: https://johnsburton.com	$450 per hour
Russell D. Cook 1233 West Shaw, Suite 100 Fresno, CA 93711 Phone: (559) 225-2510 Fax: (559) 229-3941 Email: rdcook@rdcooklaw.com Website: https://rdcooklaw.com	Half Day: $3,000 Full Day: $6,000
Thomas Feher 8500 Stockdale Hwy, Ste. 195 Bakersfield, CA 93311 Phone: 661-809-5605 Email: tfeher@fehermediation.com Website: https://www.fehermediation.com	Fee Schedule see website: https://www.fehermediation.com
Bret M. Geckeler 6077 Coffee Rd., Ste 4, PMB1033 Bakersfield, CA 93308 Phone: (661)877-4444 /(661) 205-5106 Email: nikki@bretgeckler.com Mediate@bretgeckler.com Website: https://www.bretgeckler.com	Half Day: $4,500 Full Day: $7,000

NAME	HOURLY RATE
M. Troy Hazelton 3585 W. Beechwood Ave, Suite 101 Fresno, CA 93711 Phone: (559) 431-1300 Fax: (559) 431-1442 Email: Thazelton@pgllp.com Website: www.troyhazelton.com	$415 per hour Fees are divided among the parties unless advised otherwise.
Lee M. Jacobson 246 W. Shaw Avenue, Suite 237 Fresno, CA 93711 Phone: (559) 448-0400 Fax: (559) 448-0123 Email: lmj@jacobsondisputeresolution.com sonia@jacobsondisputeresolution.com Website: https://jacobsondisputeresolution.com	Half Day: $3,500 Full Day: $6,000
Kevin G. Little 1225 E Divisadero St Fresno, CA 93720 Phone: (559) 342-5800 Fax: (559) 242-2400 Email: intake@kevinglittle.com Website: https:www.kevinglittle.com	Half Day: $2,000 Full Day: $4,000
Douglas E Noll P.O. Box 2336 Clovis, CA. 93613 Phone: (559) 903-2011 Email: doug@nollassociates.com Website: https://dougnoll.com	$2,500 per party, per day
Honorable Patrick J. O'Hara (Ret.) 300 N. Willis Visalia, CA. 93291 Phone: (559) 429-4570 Fax: (559) 429-4575 Email: judgeohara@judgeohara.com Website: http://www.judgeohara.com	See website
Honorable Robert. H. Oliver (Ret.) 5260 N. Palm Ave, Suite 201 Fresno, CA 93704 Phone: (559)432-5400 /(559)313-6285 Fax: (559) 432-5620 Email: roliver@bakermanock.com Website: https://bakermanock.com	Half Day: $3,000 Full Day: $5,000 $500 per additional hour

NAME	HOURLY RATE
James M. Phillips 1099 East Champlain Dr, Suite A, PMB 116 Fresno, CA 93720 Phone: (559) 261-9340 Fax: (888) 974-4321 Email: phillipsgp@aol.com Website: https://fresnomediator.com	Half Day: $2,500 per side Full Day: $4,000 per side $650 per additional hour
Michael Renberg 5088 N Fruit Ave., #101 Fresno, CA 93711 Phone: (559) 431-6300 Email: mrenberg@prcelaw.com	$350 per hour
Laurie Quigley Saldana 791 Price Street. #323 Pismo Beach, CA. 93449 Phone: (559) 730-1812 Email: laurie@mediationcentral.net	Half Day: $5,000 per side Full Day: $10,000 per side $750 per additional hour
Andrew R. Weiss 122 Naomi Ave Shell Beach, CA 93449 Phone: (805) 709-0304 Email: arweiss03@gmail.com Website: https://arweissmediation.com	$625.00 per hour