



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grants Continue to Fund Mediation and Advisory Services for Landlord/Tenant and Small Claims Cases

Sacramento, CA—Sacramento County residents continue to receive access to timely, affordable justice thanks to two grants totaling \$750,000 awarded to Sacramento Superior Court over three years.

In 2023, Sacramento County awarded the court two grants under the Dispute Resolution Programs Act, each for \$125,000 in annual funding for the next three fiscal years. These grant funds ensure that the court can continue to provide mediation and advisory services for Unlawful Detainer (landlord/tenant) and Small Claims cases (civil disputes generally valued at less than \$12,500) at the Carol Miller Justice Center.

From July 2020 to June 2023, data shows 1,149 Small Claims and Unlawful Detainer cases were successfully mediated, saving over 860 hours of trial time and \$861,000 in related costs. During this same period, the advisory clinic assisted more than 128,213 people, an average of over 180 residents daily, with their Unlawful Detainer actions. These services were provided at no cost to the parties in the cases.

Since November 2014, the Mediation Program has provided an alternative form of dispute resolution that offers relief sought by both sides without going to trial. Mediation allows the parties involved in the case to choose solutions that work best for them. When parties take their case to court before a judicial officer, there is a risk that neither party will get the outcome they want. Mediation allows the parties to retain control over

what happens in their case. Without mediation, there is limited opportunity for litigants in Small Claims and Unlawful Detainer cases to resolve their disputes other than by a court trial.

The Mediation Program is offered to all members of the Sacramento County community and anyone outside the community with business or contacts in the county. Mediation session occurs outside the courtroom on the day scheduled for the trial or before the trial if the mediation program office is contacted before the trial begins. The plaintiff and the defendant are encouraged to participate in the process and make a good-faith effort to resolve their case. On the day of trial, all small claims litigants and all unlawful detainer litigants in cases not using an attorney are required to meet with a program mediator pursuant to local rule.

The Unlawful Detainer Advisory Clinic has also provided services at the Carol Miller Justice Center since November 2014. The clinic offers advisory services to landlords and tenants involved in unlawful detainer matters—cases in which landlords attempt to evict tenants from their property. Advisory services are available to both landlords and tenants free of charge.

The Advisory Clinic operates Monday through Friday, 7 hours a day, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Carol Miller Justice Center. Members of the public may walk in and receive advice on a first-come, first-served basis. The Advisory Clinic is staffed with trained attorneys who give legal advice to anyone who is seeking to file an unlawful detainer lawsuit. Business owners, individuals, landlords, and tenants not represented by an attorney can use the services of the advisory clinic. Parties to the case can get answers to common questions regarding evictions, the court process, legal rights for both tenants and landlords, and what forms to complete to file a case or to respond to a case that has been filed.

For information on how to obtain services, please visit the court's website at Unlawful Detainers (Landlord/Tenant) <https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/ud/ud.aspx> and Small Claims at <https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/small-claims/small-claims.aspx>.