



Mediation
is an
opportunity
to build
reconciliation



The mediation service is offered by 17 mediation offices all over Finland. The service is based on the Act on Conciliation in Criminal and Certain Civil Cases (1015/2005). Participation in mediation is voluntary and free of charge.

In mediation, a criminal or civil case is handled impartially and confidentially. Mediation requires the consent of all parties.

Mediation can be requested by

- a party to the offence or dispute
- a custodian or guardian
- the police, prosecutor or other authority.

A request for mediation will be submitted to the mediation office. In domestic violence offences, only the police or the prosecutor may request mediation.

Mediation provides an opportunity to

- discuss what has happened and the feelings associated with it
- be heard

- take responsibility for the damage caused
- agree on compensation for damages
- speed up the processing of a criminal or civil case and affect the further processing of the case.

Progress of the mediation process

- Once a request has arrived, the mediation office will contact the parties to determine whether the matter is suitable for mediation.
- The parties are given information on mediation and its significance.
- Each party will decide whether or not they want to participate in mediation.
- If mediation is initiated, voluntary mediators trained for the task will organise mediation meetings. They

will help the parties find solutions to the case or dispute being mediated.

- The mediation may also involve a custodian, a guardian, an interpreter, an assistant and/or a support persons.
- If the parties reach an agreement at the mediation meeting, a written agreement may be drawn up.
- The parties may withdraw from mediation at any time. The mediation office may also suspend mediation if necessary.
- After mediation, the mediation office monitors compliance with the agreement if necessary.
- The processing of complainant offences may end with mediation, whereas in offences subject to official prosecution, the decision on how to proceed will be made by the prosecutor.