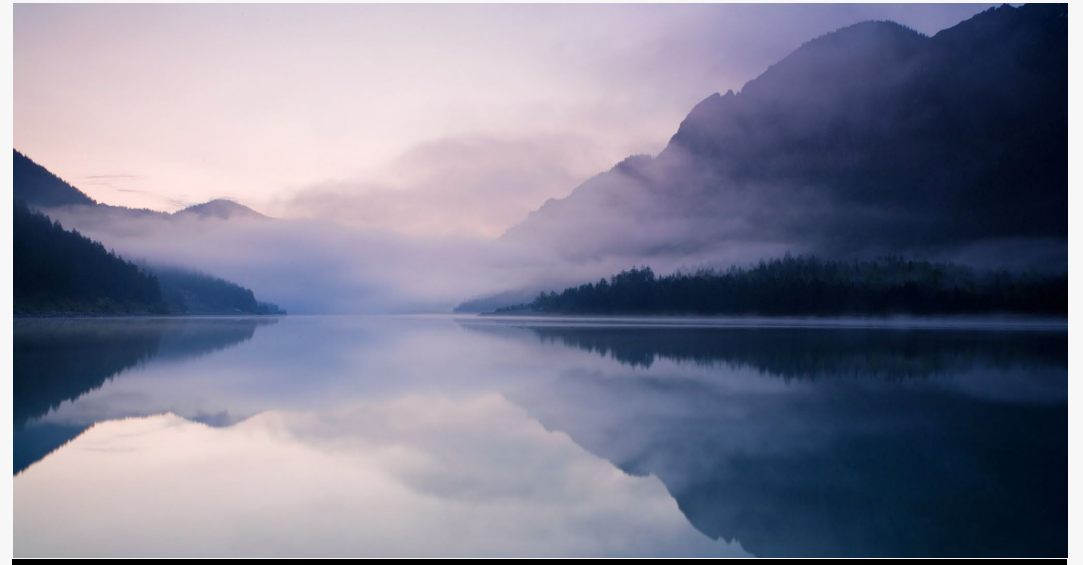

WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Presented by

*Billings Mediation
Center*

www.BillingsMediationCenter.Org



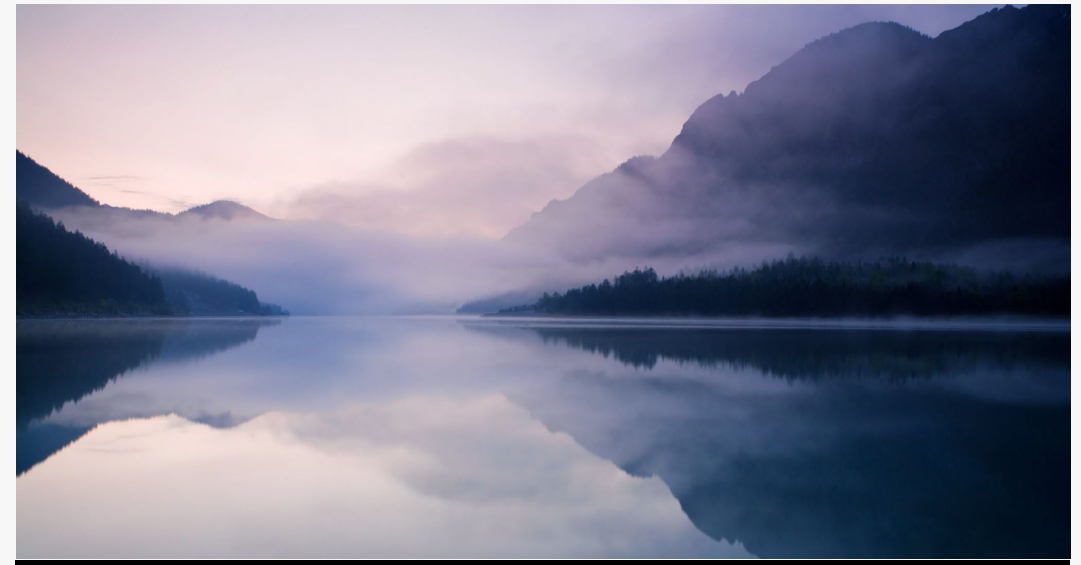
An Effective, Affordable, and Satisfying Form of Alternative Dispute Resolution

Mediation

Mediation is a confidential meeting where a mediator helps parties exchange information and consider possible solutions. A mediator does not issue orders, give opinions on how the case should be resolved, or advocate for either party. Mediation is a non-adversarial, cooperative method which clears the way for open and helpful communication between the parties. Mediation is particularly helpful where the parties will be involved in an ongoing relationship after the dispute is resolved (e.g., families, business associates, landlords and tenants, etc.).

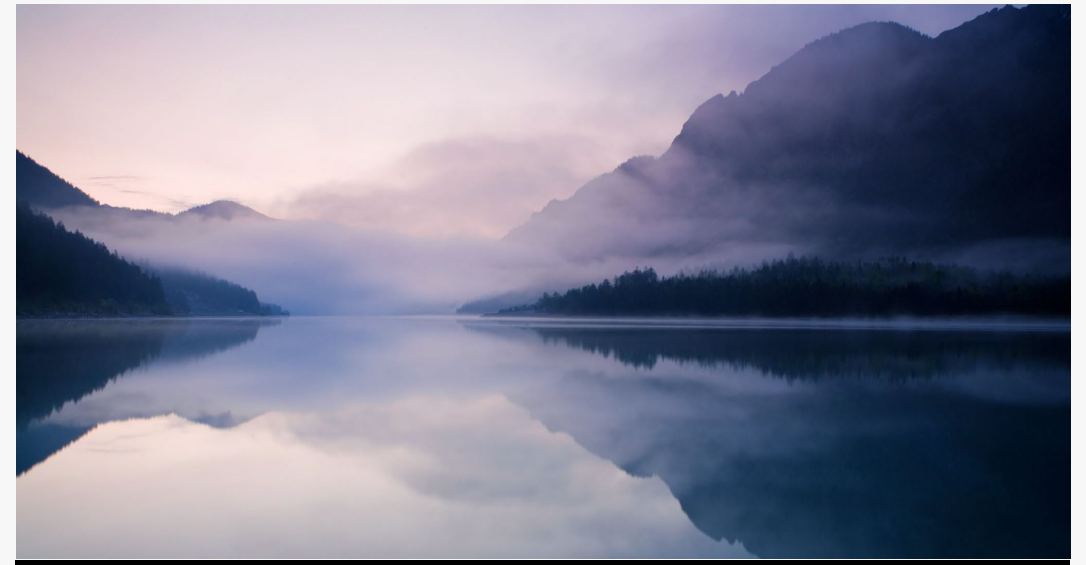
The mediator makes sure that all parties have an equal chance to be heard. Parties are encouraged to express emotion and frustrations that may be interfering with the negotiations. The mediator helps to identify the issues and explore possible solutions. Mediation is the least formal DR procedure, and in many cases the parties' lawyers do not attend due to the focus on the parties' wishes. **Parties are generally happier with a mediated settlement because they are given a way to solve their own difficulties.** The length of mediation depends upon the nature of the dispute, the number of issues, the parties' commitment to mediation, and the communication skills of the parties and the mediator. Mediation may consist of one session or may require several sessions.

<https://www.montanabar.org/page/DisputeResolution>



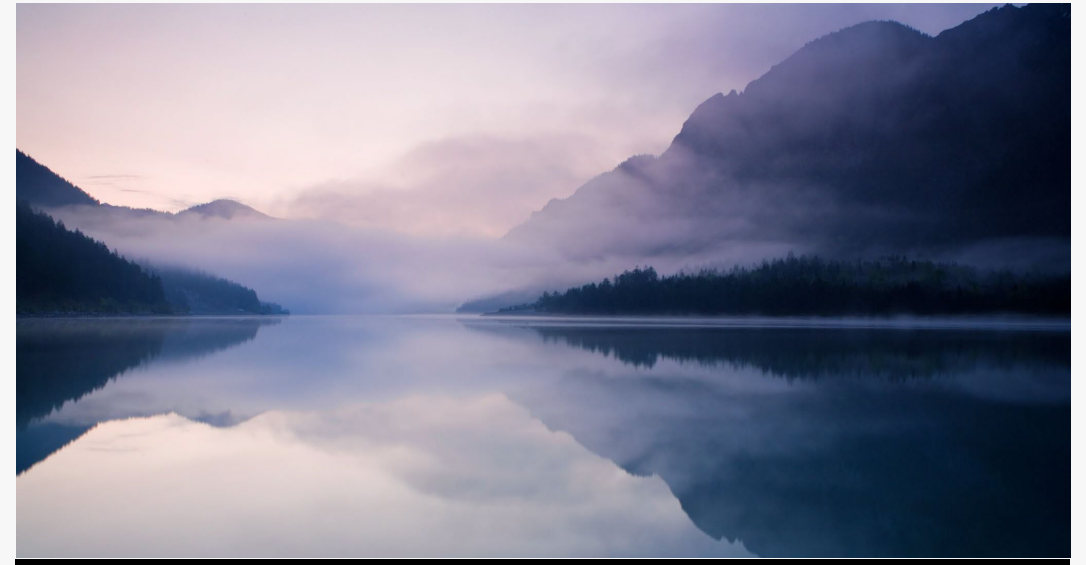
WHAT IS A MEDIATOR?

A mediator provides the process for resolving differences. A mediator listens to each party, asks questions about the situations, thoughts and feelings, helps both sides talk about finding a solution, and organize and summarize all the information that may lead to a solution satisfactory to both sides.



Mediators Do Not:

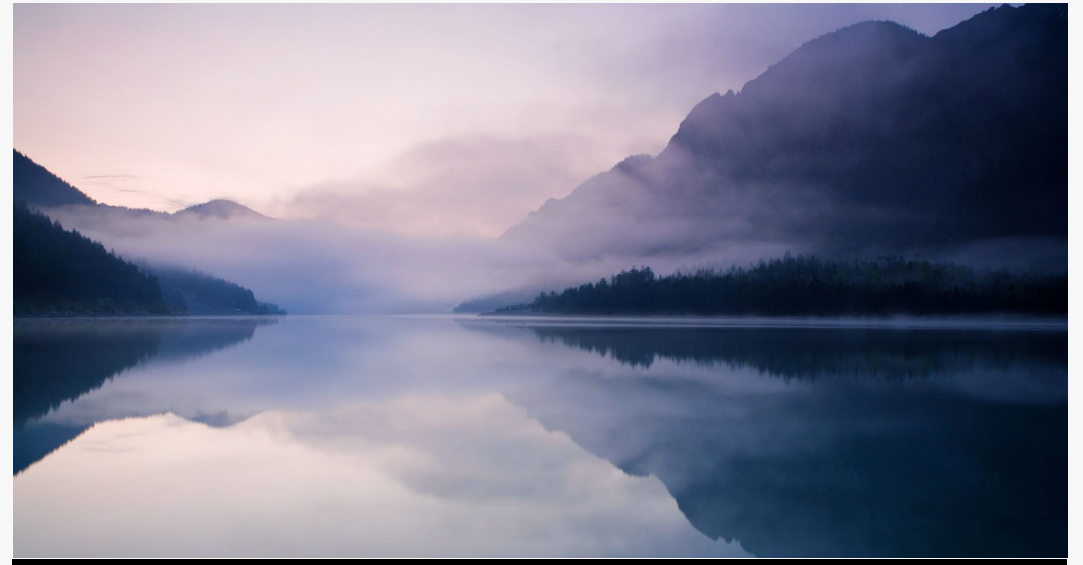
**Make decisions for people*



Mediators Do Not:

**Make decisions for people*

**Take Sides*

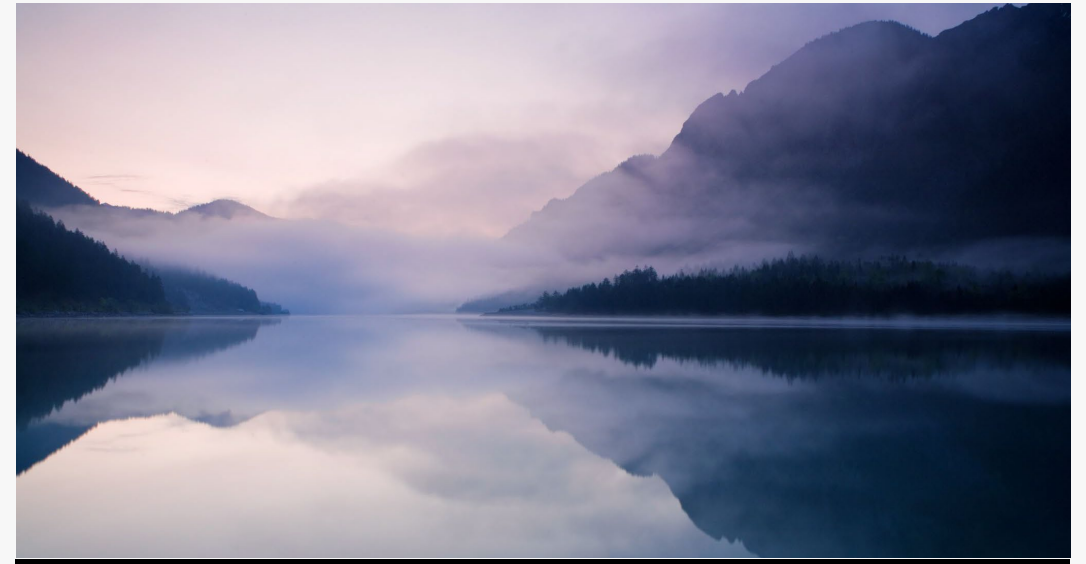


Mediators Do Not:

**Make decisions for people*

**Take Sides*

**Give His or Her Opinion*



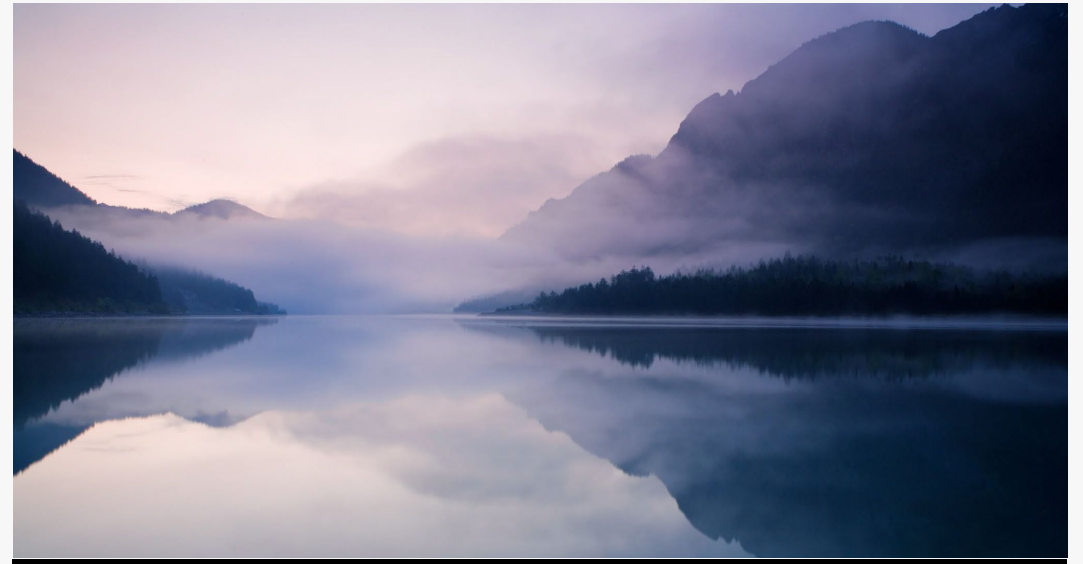
Mediators Do Not:

**Make decisions for people*

**Take Sides*

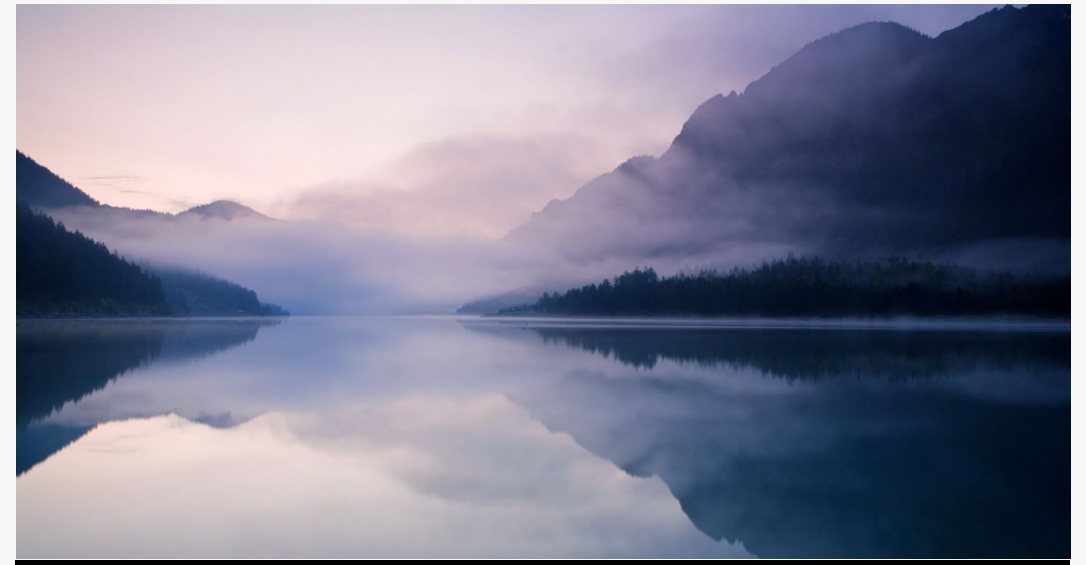
**Give His or Her Opinion*

**Determine Blame or Guilt*



Mediation is:

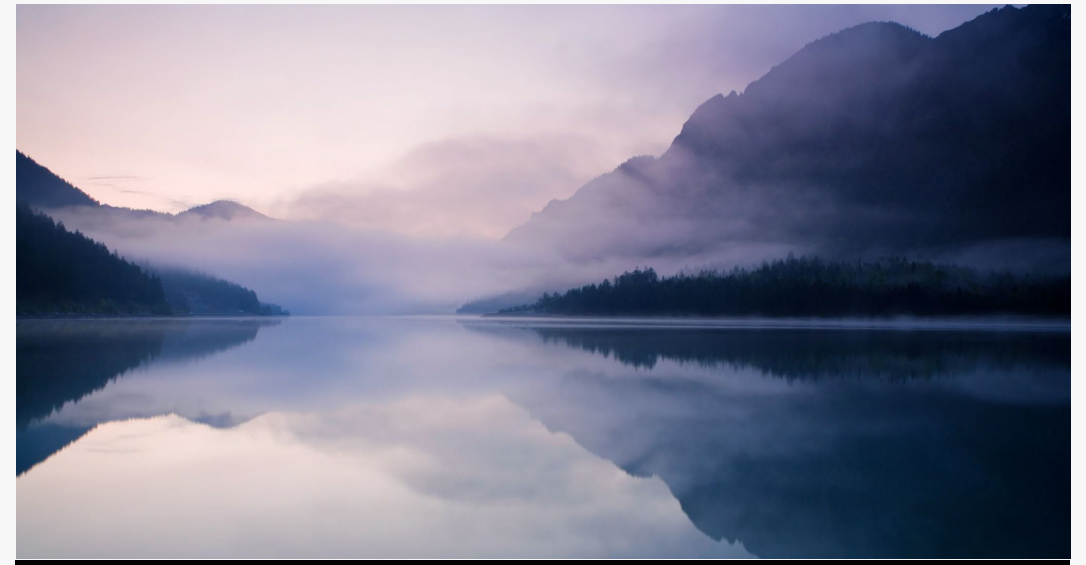
Voluntary: Participants are not forced to attend any mediation and are free to leave at any time.



Mediation is:

Voluntary: Participants are not forced to attend any mediation and are free to leave at any time.

Confidential: Information revealed in mediation is not shared with outsiders.

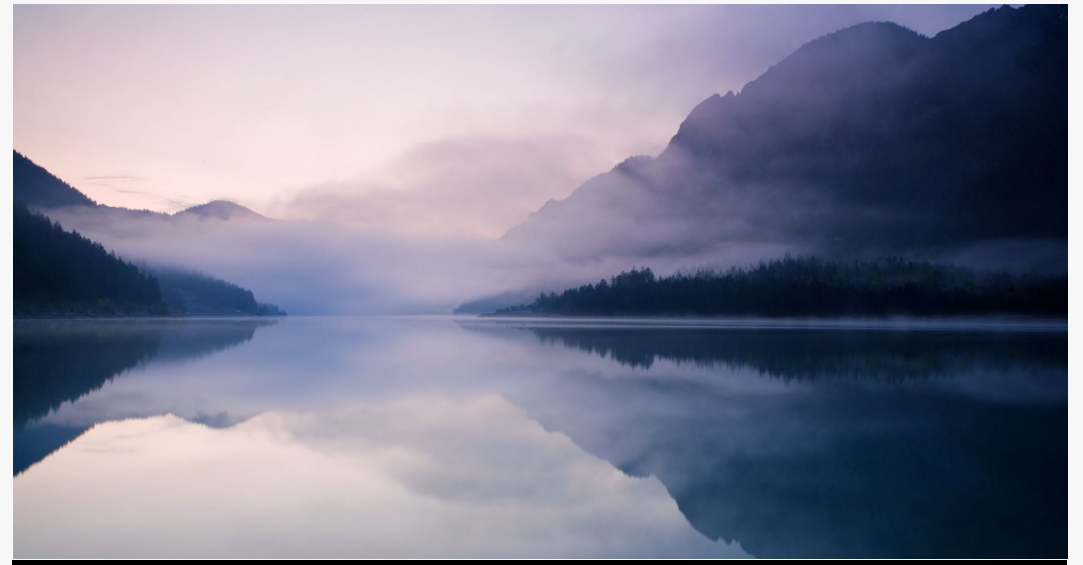


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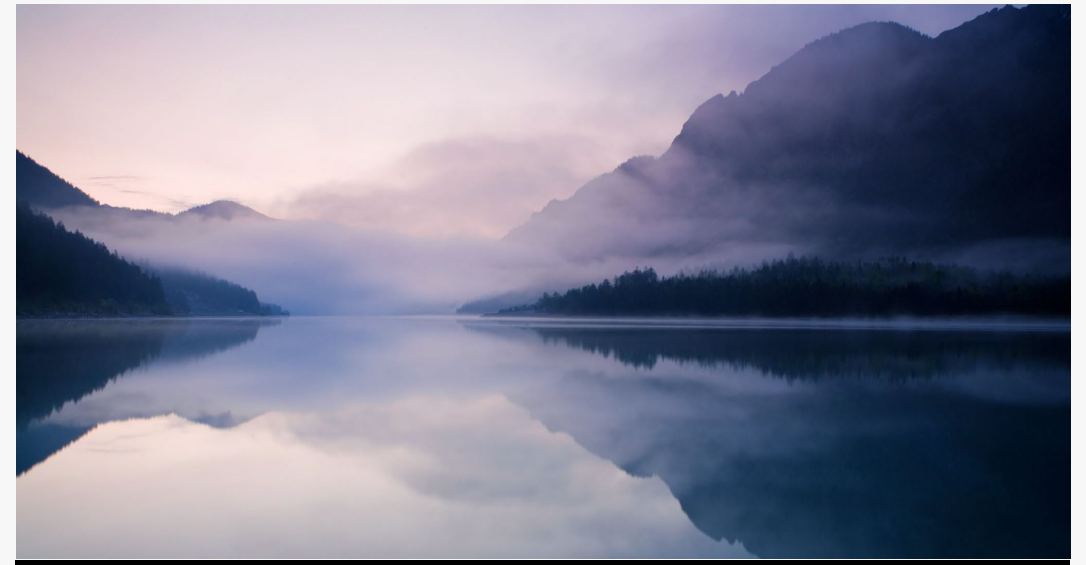
Confidential: Information revealed in mediation is not shared with outsiders.

Neutral: Mediators do not take sides, give opinions, or make suggestions.



Resolution

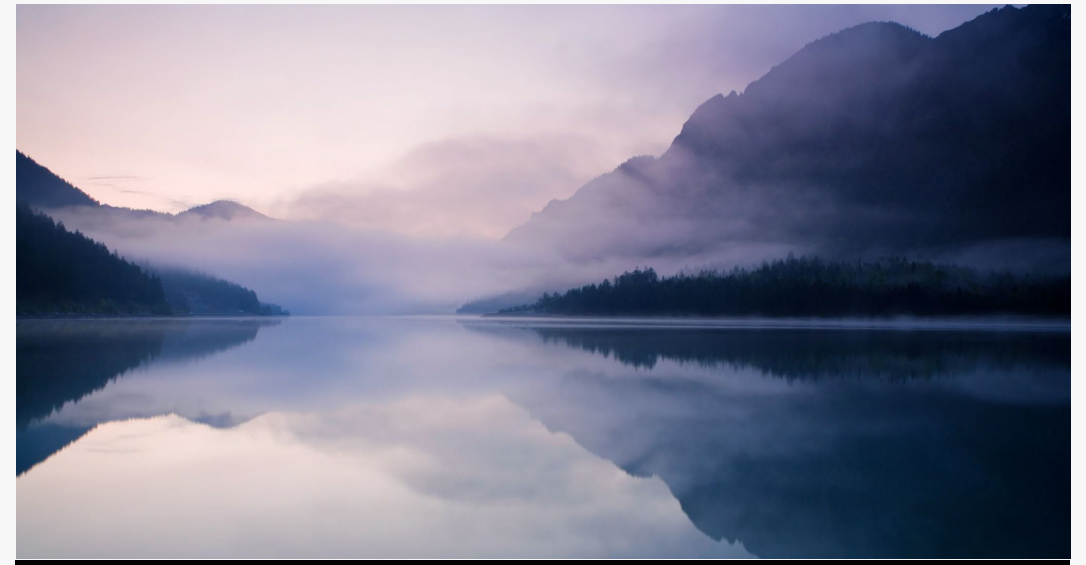
If any agreement is reached, it is drafted by the mediator to outline the specific terms of the resolution *as worded by those present.*



Resolution

If any agreement is reached, it is drafted by the mediator to outline the specific terms of the resolution *as worded by those present*.

The agreement is then signed by all parties and may be enforceable in Montana courts.



For more information:

Contact

Billings Mediation Center -406-672-4570

Schedule a 15-minute consult here:

[15-Minute Consult](#)

Complete an Intake Form to have an invitation sent to another person:

[Mediation Intake/Invite](#)

