



## JustMediationPGH

# PREPARING FOR MEDIATION

Mediation is a free, confidential, voluntary process in which a neutral mediator helps people find solutions to their housing dispute. A mediator does not serve as a judge or lawyer, but simply facilitates a dialogue that helps mediation parties better understand each other and construct positive solutions for themselves. If an agreement is reached, it is enforceable in court but the details discussed in mediation are confidential.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER BEFORE MEDIATION:

1. What happened that brought the dispute to where it is now?
2. What are the issues that need to be addressed with the other person?
3. How do you think the other person sees this situation?
4. What needs to happen to resolve this situation, and how can you help make this happen?

### WHAT TO BRING TO MEDIATION

Bringing appropriate documentation gives everyone access to the same information and allows parties to create strong mediation agreements. Be prepared with the following information if it seems applicable to your dispute:

1. A copy of the lease
2. Rent receipts or a history of payments
3. Pictures
4. A copy of the inspection (helpful for rental assistance)

### CHOOSE MEDIATION IF:

- o You have a dispute with your landlord that is putting your housing at risk
- o Uncertain life circumstances require you to negotiate a way forward
- o A tenant or landlord needs assistance managing a housing conflict
- o A tenant or landlord thinks a mediator would help them resolve a communication breakdown

### BENEFITS OF MEDIATION:

- o Mediation is FREE
- o Mediation is an alternative to court that allows you to solve your problems rather than a judge
- o Mediation involves neutral 'third parties' called mediators who are trained to help parties talk directly and decide how to settle their differences
- o Mediation is accessible, and will be scheduled at a time and place that is as convenient for you as possible
- o Mediation is faster and easier to understand than a court process
- o Mediation allows for your voice to be heard and gives you an equal share in shaping the outcome