

## **DCDRC Referral Criteria**

The following case criteria will be used by the Judiciary to refer cases to the Dallas County DRC for subsidized mediation services.

For Civil District, County Courts at Law, and Probate Court Cases:

- Services are available to only Dallas County residents or litigants.
- Cases where any party is pro se are eligible for referral without limitation as to discovery level or total amount of claims.
- Cases under Discovery Level 1 with total claims under \$50,000 are eligible for referral.
- The following cases are not eligible for referral:
  - Cases in which any party is represented by an attorney under a contingent fee agreement.
  - Cases in which any party is represented by counsel retained by an insurance company or other indemnitor.
  - Cases in which all parties are represented by retained counsel, unless the Court determines that the means of the parties are not sufficient to bear the cost of private mediation.
  - The individual Judges of each County Court at Law shall decide on a case by case basis which cases are not eligible for referral.

For Family District Court Cases: (Mediators will need their 24 hour Family Mediation Certificate to qualify)

- Services are available to only Dallas County residents or litigants.
- Cases where any party is pro se are eligible for referral without limitation as to discovery level or total amount of claims.
- Non-SAPCR Cases under Discovery Level 1 with total claims under \$50,000 are eligible for referral.
- SAPSCR Cases involving issues of conservatorship, possession, or support of minor children are eligible for referral.
- Cases in which all parties are represented by retained counsel are not eligible for referral, unless the Court determines that the means of the parties are not sufficient to bear the cost of private mediation.
- Family Court cases will be assigned to attorney mediators with significant family law experience, or to any mediator approved by the referring court.

For Justice of the Peace Court Cases:

- Services are available to only Dallas County litigants.
- Cases where any party is pro se are eligible for referral without limitation as to discovery level or total amount of claims.
- Cases under Discovery Level 1 with total claims under \$50,000 as well as JP/Small Claims appeals are eligible for referral.