

## Mediation in criminal and civil cases

- Mediation in criminal and civil cases is available everywhere in Finland.
- Participation in mediation is voluntary, and the service is non-chargeable.
- Cases are discussed confidentially and without bias.
- Mediation is based on the mediation act (1015/2005) and takes account of the requirements of the Victim's Directive (2012/29/EU).
- On the back of the brochure, you will find the contact details of the local office.
- The contact details of all mediation offices in Finland are available at [www.thl.fi/mediation](http://www.thl.fi/mediation).
- Further information is available from the professional staff of the mediation office.



MEDIATION IN CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CASES

## Contact details

Kymi-Saimaa Mediation Office:  
[www.sovittelu.fi](http://www.sovittelu.fi)  
[kymi-saimaa@sovittelu.fi](mailto:kymi-saimaa@sovittelu.fi)



MINISTRY OF  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH  
Finland



NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDIATION IN CASES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

## Mediation in cases of intimate partner violence



[WWW.THL.FI/MEDIATION](http://WWW.THL.FI/MEDIATION)

## Mediation in cases of intimate partner violence

In the mediation of intimate partner violence, the crime committed and measures for redressing the damage are discussed.

### Mediation of intimate partner violence gives the parties an opportunity to

- meet each other face to face and discuss what happened;
- process the events and associated emotions;
- be heard and hear the other party's views;
- take responsibility for the damage done;
- agree on compensating for or redressing the damage;
- alleviate the harm caused by the crime;
- discuss the possibility of a future without violence.

### Mediation requires that

- the parties agree to mediation, which they can cancel at any point;
- the suspect confirms the main facts associated with the train of events;
- mediation is in the victim's interests;
- the parties have been appropriately informed about and understand the meaning of the mediation process.

### Eligibility of the case for mediation

- In criminal cases of intimate partner violence, mediation may be proposed only by the police or prosecutor.
- The professional staff of the mediation office will investigate whether the case is eligible for mediation, taking issues such as the following into account
- voluntary nature of agreement;
- the parties' motives for mediation;
- the parties' views, needs and resources;
- the nature and method of the offence;
- potential recurrence of acts of violence.

## Progress of mediation

The mediation office will contact the parties and discuss the following with them

- mediation and its meaning;
- the parties' needs, position and expectations with respect to mediation;
- the potential need for support and follow-up services.

### Separate meetings

The mediation office will meet each party separately, to give them the opportunity to talk about what happened, and to specify their needs and other issues related to the case and what they expect from the mediation process.

In separate meetings and throughout the mediation process, the conditions in which mediation occurs will be assessed alongside the parties on the basis of the mediation act and the Victim's Directive.

### Joint meetings

Mediators are volunteers or professionals who have received special training for the task in question.

Safety aspects are taken into account in mediation.

A support person may be used in mediation meetings, but only with the other party's consent. An assistant, custodian, interpreter or a person safeguarding the interests of one of the parties may also be present.

Mediation may be interrupted if the conditions for mediation are not fulfilled.

### Mediation agreement

Reaching agreement is not an end in itself. The important issue is to meet, engage in a dialogue and be heard.

If the parties reach an agreement, a written agreement will be drafted. The parties themselves must decide on redress or compensation for the damage caused and on any other content of the agreement.

The mediation office may monitor compliance with the agreement.

An agreement on monetary compensation may be submitted to the District Court for affirmation.

## After mediation

The mediation office will send information on the mediation process and on the outcome of the process to the authority that proposed mediation. Together, on a case-by-case basis, they will consider how to handle the criminal procedure.

Agreements between the parties may be used to redress any damage or harm caused by a crime.

Mediation is not a means of determining guilt or punishment under criminal law.

