## **Integrated Mediation Office of the Judiciary**

The Integrated Mediation Office aims to assist the parties to understand the nature of mediation and how it will help the litigants resolve their disputes. It serves the parties/litigants in court and facilitates them to seek both general and family mediation from the professional bodies or private practitioners outside the Judiciary.

This Office answers enquiries and provides information on court-related mediation on all civil cases, including proceedings on matrimonial / family matters and building management.

Ways you may seek Information Session on Mediation Service

- · Contact the Integrated Mediation Office
- Consult your lawyer, social worker or other advisers

### What's next?

Arrangement will be made for any parties who are interested in seeking mediation and have approached the Integrated Mediation Office to attend an information session on mediation. This Office will provide the information on court-related mediation service available for the parties and the ways to apply for such service.

Information sessions, enquiry services and pre-mediation consultations provided by the Integrated Mediation Office are free of charge.

Please note that a party's application for information or mediation session will not lead to an automatic stay of the legal proceedings, but is subject to the Court's direction in this regard.

## Who Pays for the Mediation Service?

It is usual for the parties to agree before the start of the mediation that they will be responsible to pay the fees for mediation in equal shares. Charges in mediation mainly include the mediator's fees for his/her time and other disbursements, for example, room charges. You should consult your legal adviser about the likely costs of mediation and how this would compare with the cost of litigation. In most cases, mediation offers more efficient and cost effective way of resolving disputes than through legal channels.

# Services and Facilities of Integrated Mediation Office

- · Reception and general enquiries counter
- Video / Information session on court-related mediation
- Pre-mediation consultations
- Resource corner
- Computer facilities

#### **Office Hours**

Monday to Friday : 9:00am – 1:00pm

2:00pm - 6:00pm

Address : Room 113, 1/F, Wanchai Tower,

12 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Telephone : 2180 8066 Fax : 2180 8052

Email : mediation@judiciary.hk
Webpage : http://mediation.judiciary.hk

#### Please note:

The staff of the Integrated Mediation Office are happy to assist you with enquiries on court-related mediation, but they will not provide any legal advice or offer any comment or assistance on the conduct of specific court cases and proceedings. Please note that you should consult a legal practitioner or approach free legal advisory bodies for assistance if you require legal advice or assistance.

Assistance on court procedures will continue to be provided by the Resource Centre for Unrepresented Litigants situated at the High Court Building and the respective court registries.

# What are the arrangements of the Integrated Mediation Office in case of bad weather?

Please refer to Typhoon and Rainstorm Warning Arrangements in the Judiciary website (http://www.judiciary.hk/en/crt\_services/business\_hours\_typhoon.htm) or radio/television announcements of the same.

