

Dispute Resolution

The Department of Human Services Office of Dispute Resolution receives and attempts to resolve police department referrals in most misdemeanor complaints, such as battery, criminal damage to property, petty theft, harassment, etc.

This office also handles neighborhood annoyance complaints, such as excessive animal noise (barking dogs).

The staff of two attempts to resolve such complaints without court action by providing mediation and conciliation services.

Dispute resolution processes have several advantages, such as being cheaper and faster than the traditional legal system.

Mediation or conciliation is not appropriate for every dispute.

Complaints can be referred to the Prosecutor's Office for review to determine if court action is appropriate.



Unified Government of Wyandotte
County/Kansas City, KS
Department of Human Services

Office of Dispute Resolution
701 N. 7th Street
City Hall - Room 346
Kansas City, KS 66101

Office Hours: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Monday - Friday

Misdemeanor/Police Referrals Barking dog complaints

Contact: Gregory Carr
Phone: 913-573-5225
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or

humanservices@wycokck.org

Fax: 913-573-5511

Website: www.wycokck.org/humanservices



Department of Human Services Office of Dispute Resolution



DISPUTE RESOLUTION

*The process of resolving
conflicts between parties
outside of the courtroom.*

Misdemeanor Dispute Resolution Process

Misdemeanor police reports are submitted to the Office of Dispute Resolution when a victim makes a police report and the suspect was not arrested at the time of the report. In this instance, making a police report does not mean that charges are automatically filed against the suspect.

To pursue dispute resolution services or request legal action, victims of misdemeanor offenses should contact the Office of Dispute Resolution **5 business days after** filing the police report to address the resolution options of their case.

Many cases are resolved with mediation, which is an alternative to appearing in court. If a dispute is not resolved or either party requests, a referral to the Prosecutor's Office is made to request legal action in Municipal Court.

In order to expedite a requested court case, the suspect's full name and mailing address is needed.

The Office of Dispute Resolution is limited to resolving misdemeanor issues and **does not** handle any felony or domestic violence cases or address restraining or PFA orders.

Mediation / Conciliation Services

The Office of Dispute Resolution offers mediation and conciliation services through municipal court referrals for misdemeanor criminal offenses and animal ordinance code violations. Mediation services are also available for landlord/tenant complaints in instances such as rental or other financial discrepancies.

What is Mediation / Conciliation?

Mediation is a private, voluntary process used to resolve disputes or conflicts between parties using the assistance of a mediator as a neutral third party. The purpose of mediation is to give both parties the opportunity to communicate and problem solve in a safe and confidential* environment in order to reach a mutually acceptable agreement. The mediator is NOT a decision maker, but rather moderates the negotiations, assists in exploring areas of compromise and finding points of agreement or settlement.**

Conciliation is similar in process and purpose to mediation, but it is Court-ordered with the mediator reporting back and making recommendations to the Court when requested.

Benefits of Mediation / Conciliation

- The parties decide the outcome
- Can be faster and less costly than court
- Can include other parties
- Helps identify the issues and can preserve and/or improve relationships
- Can be more creative than the traditional court process



Many conflicts can and should be resolved at the lowest possible level in order to avoid the escalating time and costs associated with court action.

Mediation services through the Office of Dispute Resolution are free.

Please Note: If you have been accused of committing a misdemeanor offense and you have already been arrested and/or received a citation with a scheduled court date in Municipal Court, please appear in court on time and as scheduled. Your citation will list the date, time, and location of your court date. All questions about appearing in court should be directed to the Wyandotte County Municipal Court.