

Guide to **MEDIATION**



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NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board
40 Rector St.
New York, NY 10006

Guide to **MEDIATION**



After you file a complaint with the CCRB, you may be offered the chance to participate in mediation.

What is Mediation?

Mediation is a way to:

- speak for yourself
- hear what others have to say

Mediation is about resolving your conflict with a police officer.

What Happens in Mediation?

In a mediation you and the officer sit down as equals – with a mediator – in a comfortable, quiet and private space at the CCRB, to talk about the encounter that led to your complaint.

The mediator is:

- a trained professional who guides the talk
- neutral and doesn't take sides

The mediator does ***not judge*** or ***decide who was right or wrong***.

The Goal of Mediation is UNDERSTANDING

The mediator will ask you and the officer to take turns describing what happened. You are free to speak your mind and express your feelings and to tell the officer what you thought was wrong or hurtful about his or her behavior. The mediator will ask the officer to respond to your comments and to explain his or her actions and point of view. Mediations often create understanding.

You and the officer end the mediation when you are both satisfied that you have addressed the complaint. Many mediation sessions end with a handshake.

Why People Like Mediation

Mediation gives you:

- control over the resolution of your complaint
- the rare chance to speak directly to an officer away from the stress of the street
- the satisfaction of telling the officer how his or her actions or words affected you
- the satisfaction of knowing you have been heard



What People Say About Mediation

“Because of the officer’s attitude on the street, I did not think that he would want to listen to me. However, in our mediation, we both talked freely. We reached a better understanding of each other.”



“The officer and I did not always agree. I am still satisfied because I had the chance to personally tell the officer what I thought of her behavior.”



“This was very helpful in reaching closure because often a civilian doesn’t get a chance to present their point of view without being in a court.”

Important Facts About Mediation

Mediation is voluntary

You and the officer have the right to say, “No, I don’t want to mediate.” If you decide at any point that mediation is not what you want, the CCRB will investigate the case instead.



The mediation session is confidential and cannot be recorded or videotaped

This helps you and the officer talk freely. You and the officer must sign a confidentiality form agreeing not to tell anyone else what was said during the mediation. The mediator also signs this agreement.



Only certain kinds of complaints can be mediated

For example, cases cannot be mediated if there is serious physical injury, property damage or a lawsuit against the police.

INVESTIGATION

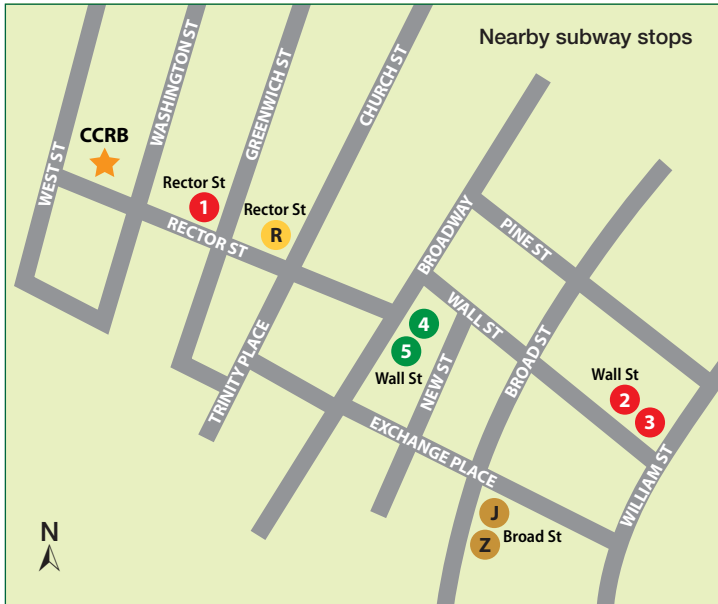
Sometimes a case is not appropriate for mediation and the CCRB will conduct an investigation instead. A case cannot be both mediated and investigated.

During an investigation, the CCRB tries to find the truth about what happened and gathers all possible evidence, including statements from you, the officers and any witnesses.

Each investigation ends with a finding about the incident. Sometimes the investigation ends with a finding that the officer committed misconduct and sometimes it does not.

Where and When

All mediations take place at the CCRB's offices on the second floor of 40 Rector Street, in lower Manhattan. Mediations are scheduled Monday through Friday, at times that are convenient for you. Most sessions take about an hour.



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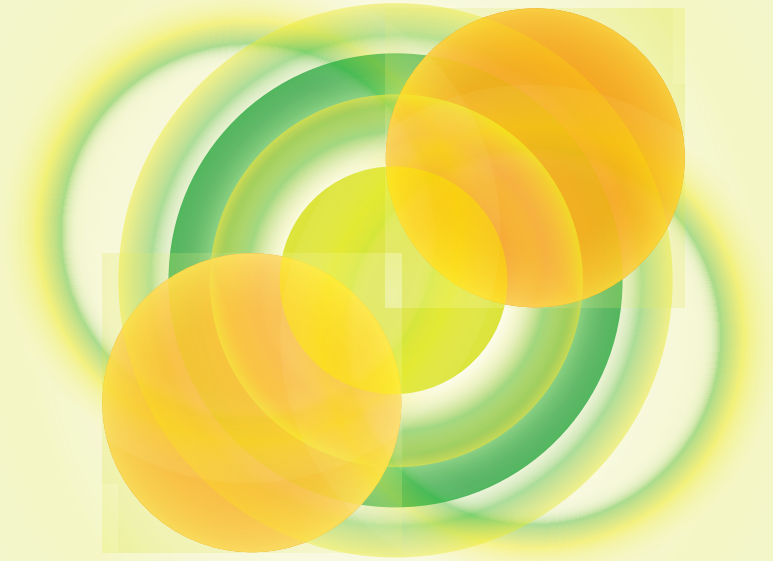
For More Information about CCRB Mediation:

212-442-8740



Learn more about mediation on our website:

www.nyc.gov/ccrb



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Complaints and General Information: **311** or **1-800-341-2272**
Outside NYC: **212-New-York**
TTY/TDD: **212-504-4115**