



### What is a Judicially Hosted Settlement Conference?

A JHSC is a confidential, non-binding process in which a settlement judge acts as a neutral mediator/evaluator of the case. Each side has the opportunity to present a brief summary of its evidence, legal theories and settlement desires.

In a settlement conference the settlement judge facilitates the parties' efforts to negotiate a settlement.

Some settlement judges use mediation techniques in the settlement conference to improve communication among the parties, probe barriers to settlement, and assist in formulating resolutions. The parties are under no obligation to settle any matters at the settlement conference.

### Advantages of Using JHSC

- By using a retired Superior Court Judge as the settlement you gain:
  - Experience
  - Expertise
  - Insight
- Your case can be expedited.
- You will not be regulated to attend the Seventh District's mediation program if you use JHSC.

# Judicially Hosted Settlement Conference



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# Judicially Hosted Settlement Conference

SEVENTH JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT

A settlement judge is a Senior Superior Court Judge who has successfully completed both mediation and JHSC training.

## JHSC

- BY REFERRAL
- BY REQUEST
- BY COURT ORDER
- CONFIDENTIAL
- NON-BINDING

A settlement judge (a qualified, retired Superior Court Judge) will assist the parties in settlement negotiations by assessing the strengths and weaknesses of each side's case. The settlement judge has no decision making authority and is in no way acting in lieu of the assigned judge, but offers his unique expertise to help settle your case.

## How to participate in a Judicially Hosted Settlement Conference?

### REFERRAL

The court may refer a case to a settlement conference on its own initiative or upon stipulation of all parties involved in a case. The Court or parties will notify the Seventh Judicial Administrative District Office of the referral. The District Court Administrator will maintain a list of approved settlement judges and will appoint a judge to the case based on availability, expertise and logistical considerations.

### REQUEST

For cases assigned to a local ADR program a party may file a request for a settlement conference in lieu of ADR. In cases that have not been referred to an ADR program a party may file such a request or the court can order parties to attend and participate at any time after the action has commenced.

You will not be required to go through mediation if you participate in the JHSC program.

### DIRECTIVES

The settlement judge shall notify the parties of the time and date of the settlement conference within 60 days of assignment.

### CONFIDENTIALITY

The settlement judge, all counsel and parties attending the settlement conference, shall treat as "confidential information" anything that happened during the conference with exceptions as noted in the JHSC Rules.

### MEMORANDA

Five days prior to the settlement conference each party shall furnish the settlement judge with a separate memorandum that will include a description of the lawsuit. This memorandum will not be admissible at trial.



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