

# Mediation

VS

# Arbitration



**A Mediator is a neutral facilitator**

**A Mediator helps the parties to negotiate a solution**



**The parties to the mediation control the outcome**



**If mediation fails to settle, the parties can go to court or arbitration and let the judge or arbitrator make a final decision**



**An arbitrator is like a judge who listens to evidence and makes a final decision**

# No right to a judge, a jury, and no right to appeal in arbitration





**Arbitrations are private and the parties choose the arbitrator**

### 30. MEDIATION:

- A. The Parties agree to mediate any dispute or claim arising between them out of this Agreement, or any resulting transaction, before resorting to arbitration or court action. The mediation shall be conducted through the C.A.R. Real Estate Mediation Center for Consumers ([www.consumermediation.org](http://www.consumermediation.org)) or through any other mediation provider or service mutually agreed to by the Parties. The Parties also agree to mediate any disputes or claims with Agents(s), who, in writing, agree to such mediation prior to, or within a reasonable time after, the dispute or claim is presented to the Agent. Mediation fees, if any, shall be divided equally among the Parties involved, and shall be recoverable under the prevailing party attorney fees clause. If, for any dispute or claim to which this paragraph applies, any Party (i) commences an action without first attempting to resolve the matter through mediation, or (ii) before commencement of an action, refuses to mediate after a request has been made, then that Party shall not be entitled to recover attorney fees, even if they would otherwise be available to that Party in any such action. THIS MEDIATION PROVISION APPLIES WHETHER OR NOT THE ARBITRATION PROVISION IS INITIALED.
- B. **ADDITIONAL MEDIATION TERMS:** (i) Exclusions from this mediation agreement are specified in paragraph 31B; (ii) The obligation to mediate does not preclude the right of either Party to seek a preservation of rights under paragraph 31C; and (iii) Agent's rights and obligations are further specified in paragraph 31D.

**RPA Clause 30 requires mediation**

**31. ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES:**

- A. The Parties agree that any dispute or claim in Law or equity arising between them out of this Agreement or any resulting transaction, which is not settled through mediation, shall be decided by neutral, binding arbitration. The Parties also agree to arbitrate any disputes or claims with Agents(s), who, in writing, agree to such arbitration prior to, or within a reasonable time after, the dispute or claim is presented to the Agent. The arbitration shall be conducted through any arbitration provider or service mutually agreed to by the Parties, OR  The arbitrator shall be a retired judge or justice, or an attorney with at least 5 years of residential real estate Law experience, unless the Parties mutually agree to a different arbitrator. Enforcement of, and any motion to compel arbitration pursuant to, this agreement to arbitrate shall be governed by the procedural rules of the Federal Arbitration Act, and not the California Arbitration Act, notwithstanding any language seemingly to the contrary in this Agreement. The Parties shall have the right to discovery in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure § 1283.05. The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with Title 9 of Part 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure. Judgment upon the award of the arbitrator(s) may be entered into any court having jurisdiction.
- B. **EXCLUSIONS:** The following matters are excluded from mediation and arbitration: (i) Any matter that is within the jurisdiction of a probate, small claims or bankruptcy court; (ii) an unlawful detainer action; and (iii) a judicial or non-judicial foreclosure or other action or proceeding to enforce a deed of trust, mortgage or installment land sale contract as defined in Civil Code § 2985.
- C. **PRESERVATION OF ACTIONS:** The following shall not constitute a waiver nor violation of the mediation and arbitration provisions: (i) the filing of a court action to preserve a statute of limitations; (ii) the filing of a court action to enable the recording of a notice of pending action, for order of attachment, receivership, injunction, or other provisional remedies; or (iii) the filing of a mechanic's lien.
- D. **AGENTS:** Agents shall not be obligated nor compelled to mediate or arbitrate unless they agree to do so in writing. Any Agents(s) participating in mediation or arbitration shall not be deemed a party to this Agreement.
- E. **NOTICE: BY INITIALING IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU ARE AGREEING TO HAVE ANY DISPUTE ARISING OUT OF THE MATTERS INCLUDED IN THE 'ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES' PROVISION DECIDED BY NEUTRAL ARBITRATION AS PROVIDED BY CALIFORNIA LAW AND YOU ARE GIVING UP ANY RIGHTS YOU MIGHT POSSESS TO HAVE THE DISPUTE LITIGATED IN A COURT OR JURY TRIAL. BY INITIALING IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU ARE GIVING UP YOUR JUDICIAL RIGHTS TO DISCOVERY AND APPEAL, UNLESS THOSE RIGHTS ARE SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED IN THE 'ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES' PROVISION. IF YOU REFUSE TO SUBMIT TO ARBITRATION AFTER AGREEING TO THIS PROVISION, YOU MAY BE COMPELLED TO ARBITRATE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE. YOUR AGREEMENT TO THIS ARBITRATION PROVISION IS VOLUNTARY.**
- "WE HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING AND AGREE TO SUBMIT DISPUTES ARISING OUT OF THE MATTERS INCLUDED IN THE 'ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES' PROVISION TO NEUTRAL ARBITRATION."**

Buyer's Initials \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Seller's Initials \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Arbitration in RPA Clause 31 is optional  
And is only included if both parties initial**

## The “should I arbitrate” decision:

- Balance the scales, then decide
- Share Legal Q&A and similar info, but do not tell clients what to do



**Small claim disputes (\$10,000 or less)**

**No requirement to mediate or arbitrate**



# Additional Resources

## **Quick Guides:**

[Distinguishing Between Mediation and Arbitration](#)  
[Arbitration for the Consumer](#)

## **Legal Q & As:**

[Arbitration for the Consumer](#)  
[Mediation for the Consumer](#)