



**COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION**

COURT ORDER NUMBER 145234

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DATE: 5/20/2025

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF TARRANT COUNTY DISPUTE RESOLUTION FEE
SCHEDULE AND MEDIATOR STIPEND SCHEDULE**

***** CONSENT AGENDA *****

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court consider the Tarrant County Dispute Resolution (DR) Fee Schedule.

BACKGROUND

Chapter 152, Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, allows counties to operate an Alternative Dispute Resolution System (ADRS). ADRS is defined as “an informal forum in which mediation, conciliation, or arbitration is used to resolve disputes among individuals, entities, and units of government, including those having an ongoing relationship such as relatives, neighbors, landlords and tenants, employees and employers, and merchants and consumers.”

On July 16, 2024, through Court Order #143470, the Commissioners Court approved the most recent Tarrant County DR Fee Schedule.

Tarrant County’s ADRS model relies on independent mediators to provide accessible, high-quality mediation services to county residents. To ensure these services remain affordable, the Commissioners Court must set a fee schedule for the program. Participants generally pay mediators directly.

For Juvenile Services mediation programs, the participant fee remained unchanged in 2024. A new proposed fee of \$75 is recommended for 2025. It is important to note that Juvenile Services mediation plays a vital role in helping reconcile families and constituents. In FY 2024, DR conducted 150 juvenile mediations. The proposed fee increase would generate an additional \$3,750.00 in FY 2025.

DR is also expanding its services to include mediation for Human Resources cases referred by Tarrant County Human Resources. These mediation fees will be covered by existing DR funds and incorporated into the DR Fee Schedule and Mediator Stipend Schedule.

The proposed fee schedule is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT

Mediators typically receive payment directly from the parties involved. However, stipends for hardship cases, Juvenile Services mediations, CPS cases, and Human Resources mediations are paid from Fund 22500-2025 Dispute Resolution/4840100000 Dispute Resolution/569011 Professional Services.

SUBMITTED BY	Dispute Resolution	PREPARED BY:	Susan Young
		APPROVED BY:	Kandice Boutte

Tarrant County Dispute Resolution (DR) Fee Schedule and Mediator Stipend Schedule

Program	Participant Fee ⁱ	Mediator Stipend	Eligibility ⁱⁱ
Juvenile Services Mediation	None	\$75 ⁱⁱⁱ	Juvenile Services referral
District Court Civil Cases, County Court Cases, Family Cases, and Probate Cases	\$120 per party for four hours (half day); \$30 per party per hour thereafter	Up to \$240 per four hours; maximum of \$480 per case	Program eligibility restricted to participants with a family income of \$110,000 or less; individual income of \$60,000 or less ^{iv}
Justice Court Cases	\$60 per party	Up to \$120 per mediation	No eligibility restrictions for the program
Community/Non-Court Mediations	\$30 per party	Up to \$60 per mediation	No eligibility restrictions for the program
Eviction Court Cases	None	\$220 ^v	CCL referral
Temporary Order Cases	\$60 per party	Up to \$120 per mediation	No eligibility restrictions for the program
CPS Mediation	None	\$125 for 1 hour mediation; \$250 per ½ day mediation; \$500 per full day mediation ^{vi}	CPS referral
Human Resources	None	\$250 per ½ day mediation; \$500 per full day mediation ^v	Human Resource referral
Mediator Retainer	None	\$25	Court appearance ^{vii}

(i) Participants will pay the participant fee to the mediator directly at the time of mediation.

(ii) Eligibility to participate in the DR mediation program is determined by family or individual income or referral from the court. For Justice Court cases and Community/Non-Court mediations, there are no eligibility restrictions for participation in the program.

(iii) Tarrant County DR will pay the mediator stipend directly for Juvenile Services Mediation.

(iv) Ability to pay will be determined by these income thresholds. If a party is below the income threshold, a sliding scale will be used to determine the amount of fee. DR will pay the other portion of the fee as a mediator stipend.

(v) Tarrant County DR will pay the mediator stipend directly for the entire eviction docket.

(vi) CPS will contribute the first \$1,000 towards mediation costs. DR will then cover the remaining mediator stipend for these cases up to \$40,000.

(vii) In the event mediation is not conducted, the mediator will be paid a stipend for their time in court.

(viii) Tarrant County DR will pay the mediator stipend directly for Human Resource Mediation.

