

SMALL CLAIMS AT THE LAKE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

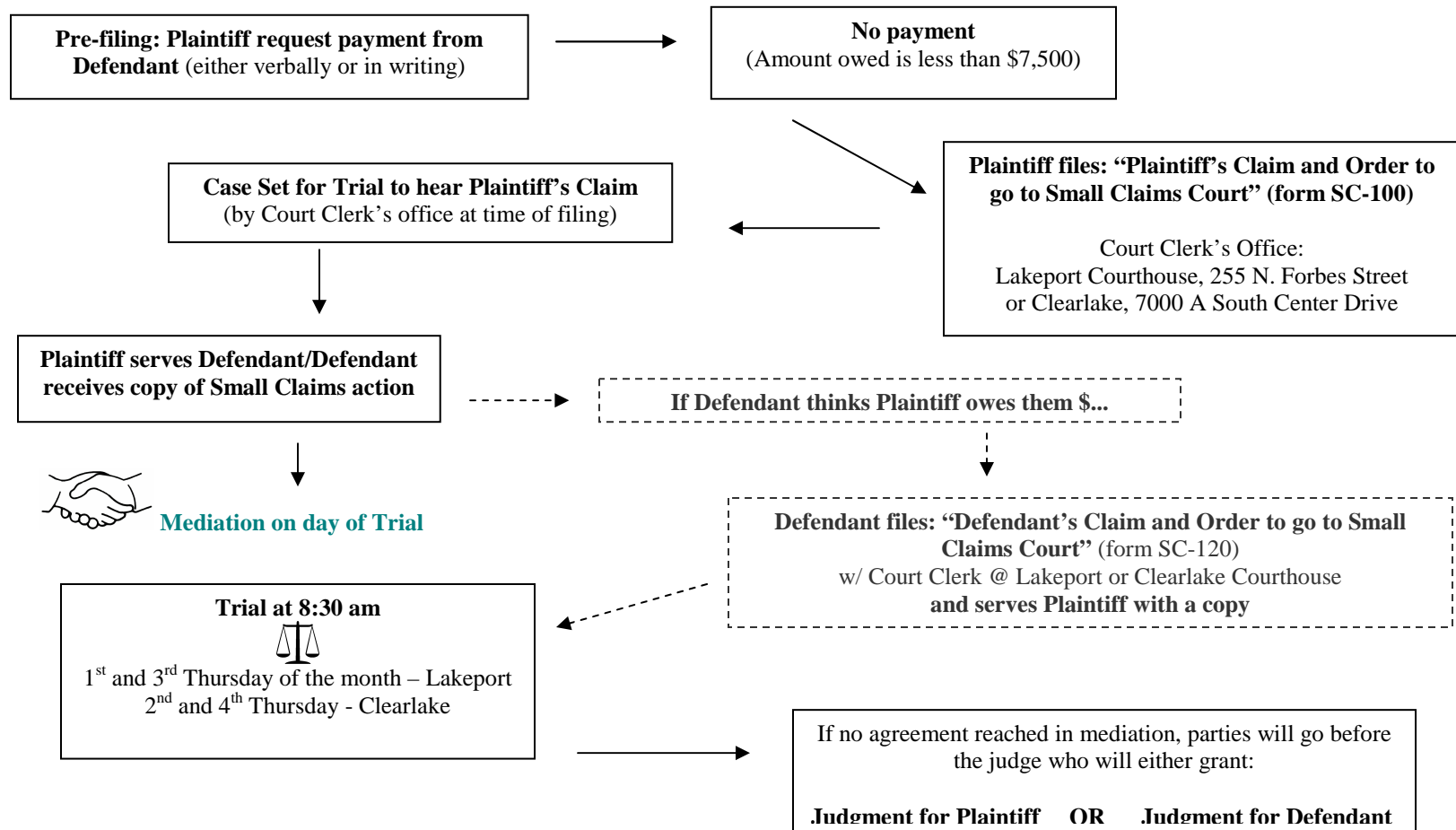


Opportunities to Use Mediation in Small Claims

Parties can avoid trial and mediate at any time before or after filing.

If mediating before filing, call The Lake County Dispute Resolution Services at 707.263.6800.

If mediating after filing, call The Lake/Mendocino Superior Courts' Civil Mediation Program at 707.263.2264.



BENEFITS OF MEDIATION

- **Court-connected mediation is free.**
- **You can avoid the pressures of having to present your case to the judge.** Mediation is less formal than the court room and you will have the chance to speak freely and directly to the other person.
- **You will reach your own solution.** Solutions that address the interests and needs of the parties have a better chance for getting the other person to cooperate. The court knows less about the dispute than you do, and therefore, may not give you the result you are seeking.
- **You might reach an agreement on all issues that concern you, even those that cannot be dealt with in a trial.**
- **All discussions during the mediation are confidential, and can not be repeated at trial.** You can speak freely about your feelings, concerns, disappointments and anything else that feels relevant to you.
- **Clear, respectful communication –** If you have a relationship of any kind with the other party or may deal with him or her in the future, mediation can provide the opportunity for understanding, better communication or reconciliation.
- **Mediated agreements are enforceable by the court, whether made before or after filing a lawsuit.**
- **If you do not reach agreement, you can still have a trial.**

WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation is a voluntary and confidential process that allows the parties to meet with a trained, impartial mediator. The mediator helps parties that are in conflict communicate with each other in a respectful and more effective way. The mediator will help the parties define issues, overcome obstacles in their communication, and explore potential solutions. The entire process proceeds by agreement of the parties.

For more information about mediation contact: 707.263.2264 or 707.263.6800

For questions about law and forms:

In Person

Lake Superior Court Self-Help Center

380 North Main Street, Lakeport
Walk-in services Mondays and
Tuesdays, 8:30 am until 4:00 pm
Phone: 707.263.9024

Mendocino Superior Court Self-Help Center

Ukiah Courthouse
3rd Floor-Room 304
Walk-in services Monday through
Thursday, 12:00 pm until 4:00 pm
Phone: 707.468.2020

On-Line

**California Courts Online Self-Help
Center: www.legalselfhelp.ca.gov**



Lake/Mendocino Superior Courts' Civil Mediation Program

 **Opportunities to
Use Mediation in:**

Small Claims

Lake Superior Court Process