

## INFORMATION ABOUT MEDIATION AT THE RENT DISPUTES TRIBUNAL (HTU)

Mediation takes place at a meeting at which landlords and tenants receive the assistance of a mediator to resolve matters. Our mediators are experts on rent legislation. They are neutral and possess extensive experience in resolving all sorts of conflicts.

### Advantages of mediation:

- ✓ *A quicker and cheaper way of resolving disputes*
- ✓ *Saves time and energy*
- ✓ *Greater influence – good flexible solutions can be agreed*
- ✓ *Cases can be fully concluded – avoids having to appear several times in court*

### How are mediation meetings held?

- Meetings are held at the HTU's premises. Mediation can also be undertaken via Skype.
- The mediator decides how meetings shall be held.
- Both landlords and tenants are allowed to relate what has happened and to say what they want.
- The mediator will often talk to you alone during the course of a meeting, in order to find solutions.
- If you agree, the mediator will help you to draw up a binding agreement. This agreement is called a settlement. Settlements are similar to judgements, but they cannot be appealed against to the Court of Arbitration.
- Meetings usually last a couple of hours, but they can take longer. Your mediator will have set aside the whole day.

### Can I take someone with me to a mediation meeting?

- You can be accompanied by a lawyer or an assistant in order to provide you with support and advice, but this is not necessary.
- Please notify the HTU **by no later than 1 week before your meeting** if you want someone to accompany you.

### What if I dread meeting the other party?

- Please contact the HTU if you dread any such meetings.
- The mediator will ensure that both parties behave properly. Both will be heard.

### What should I do prior to mediation?

- Think about various different solutions – be creative. Find the documents you want to take with you.
  - **Tip:** Note down what you want to say + suggested solutions.
- Please notify us if you need an interpreter. The HTU will book and pay for an interpreter.

**What happens if we fail to reach agreement?**

- After mediation has taken place you will know more about the strengths and weaknesses of your case.
- Both parties will receive a deadline for presenting **new** information/evidence before the HTU makes a decision about a case.
- The HTU's decisions can be appealed against to the Court of Arbitration.

Further information is available on [www.htu.no](http://www.htu.no)