

# Student Interpersonal Violence Informal Resolution Process @ UofSC

## PLANNING AND PRELIMINARY MEETING

Mediator meets with each student separately to determine goals and set expectations. This mediator will share information about how to navigate the process and provide an opportunity to answer questions. In order to participate in this process, the respondent will need to accept responsibility for one or both of the following: (1) that they have violated the University's policy; and/or (2) that they take responsibility for harming another student.

**At any point throughout this process, a student can choose to opt out of the mediation process.**

## INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP MEDIATION PROCESS

**Students will select the preferred method of mediation during the planning meeting. Both students must be unanimous in their decision regarding which process to choose. If students do not agree, individual mediation will be the default option.**

### Individual Mediation

Students, and their advisors, do not interact during the mediation. The students will be separated in different rooms and the mediator would go back and forth between students, working to come to an acceptable outcome for both students involved.

### Group Mediation

The students, their advisors, and the mediator meet together to engage in group dialogue. The students work together to come to an acceptable outcome. Group mediation can be chosen for the whole mediation or for particular portions.

## INTRODUCTIONS

Mediator, students and advisors (together or separately) will lay out ground rules, answer questions, emphasize goals for mediation and ultimate outcomes. Students can also share opening thoughts and goals. In an individual process, students can share those thoughts with the mediator. In a group process, opening remarks can be shared, uninterrupted, with the group.

## DISCUSSION AND FACILITATED NEGOTIATIONS

After opening remarks in a group mediation, the students will discuss their goals and proposed outcomes, facilitated by the mediator, until an agreement can be reached. In an individual mediation, the mediator will communicate proposed outcomes, goals, and concerns back and forth between the students until an outcome is reached.

## OUTCOME

The goal is that the students reach a consensus on an outcome. If this occurs, the mediator will outline the terms and draft an agreement. The Office of Student Conduct will monitor the outcome of the case to ensure that students comply with the agreement. If students cannot reach a consensus, the case will either be dismissed at the request of the complainant or proceed to a formal hearing under the university's IPV policy