

San Diego Superior Court Civil Facilitation Pilot Program Guidelines

- Pilot program designed to assist civil judges with growing motion burden and litigants in resolving issues without costly protracted proceedings.
- Retired judges act as pro bono facilitators on demurrer and discovery issues; will be sent one matter per month.
- Participation in the program is strictly voluntary, and there is no cost to the litigants.
- The program will begin in the Central Division, in Departments 73 (Judge Wohlfeil) and 69 (Judge Katherine Bacal).
- Parties who wish to participate are to contact Jun Tinsley, program clerk, to obtain a facilitator's name. Ms. Tinsley is available at (619) 450-5261; her e-mail is Jun.Tinsley@sdcourt.ca.gov.
- The parties are to work directly with the facilitator to schedule a session.
- If the facilitator first identified is unavailable or declines the matter, the parties are to contact Ms. Tinsley again to obtain a second facilitator name.
- Sessions will take place as agreed to by the facilitator and parties: at an attorney's office or the facilitator's office, or by phone conference. No court facilities are available for this purpose.
- In advance of the session, the parties are required to provide the facilitator with a brief description of issues and their position on each issue, or whatever alternative documentation the facilitator requests.
- If issues are resolved, the parties must immediately contact the department clerk to vacate any scheduled hearings that are no longer necessary.
- Facilitators will not make any report on the session to the trial judge.