

LETTER FROM PRESIDING COURT JUDGE – LOS ANGELES

Dear Court Litigant:

You have a case in our court. During this time in your life, you have a number of decisions to make about your future. I would like you to know that our court would like to help make this process as easy as possible for you.

However, going to court is not the only way to resolve disputes. Some other ways include having attorneys negotiate directly; having a neutral third party help both sides negotiate a solution (mediation) or using a problem-solving method such as collaborative law. These other ways help people find solutions that are mutually acceptable. You can speak with your attorney, if you have one, about these options so the two of you can decide whether any of these are right for you.

You may want to consider these other ways of resolving your dispute for several reasons:

- 1) You will directly participate in finding solutions
- 2) You probably will be able to resolve your dispute sooner
- 3) It may be much less expensive,
- 4) You will end the process with better relationships and less conflict and.
- 5) You will likely find it less stressful than court hearings

Your agreement does not need to be perfect. It does need to be acceptable to both of you. You can speak with your attorney, if you have one, about all of these methods of resolving your case.

It is to your benefit to consider opportunities to reduce conflict and reduce expenses incurred in the court process. Many people spend time, effort, and money attempting to obtain satisfaction by prolonging the dispute with the other party, but this does not guarantee either party will be fully satisfied with the outcome.

Sincerely,

Supervising Judge
Los Angeles Superior Court