



Binding Mediation Agreement
ADR Systems File # xxxxxxxxx
Insurance Claim # xxxxxxxxx

I. Parties

A. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

B. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

II. Date, Time and Location of the Binding Mediation

Date: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Time: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Location: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

III. Rules Governing the Binding Mediation

Each party ("Party") to this agreement ("Agreement") hereby agrees to submit the above dispute for binding mediation ("Mediation") to ADR Systems of America, L.L.C., ("ADR Systems") in accordance with the following terms:

A. Powers of the Mediator

1. The Parties agree that xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx shall serve as the sole Mediator in this matter (the "Mediator").
2. The Mediator shall have the power to determine the admissibility of evidence and to rule upon the law and the facts of the dispute pursuant to Section III(D)(1). The Mediator shall also have the power to rule on objections to evidence which arise during the hearing.
3. The Mediator is authorized to hold joint and separate caucuses with the Parties and to make oral and written recommendations for settlement purposes.
4. **The Parties agree that the Mediator shall decide all issues concerning liability and damages arising from the dispute if this matter cannot be settled, unless any of the above is waived. Any other issues to be decided must be agreed upon by the Parties, and included in this contract.**
5. Any failure to object to compliance with these Rules shall be deemed a waiver of such objection.

B. Amendments to the Agreement

1. No Party shall amend the Agreement at any time without the consent and approval of such changes by the opposing Party, and ADR Systems of America.
2. When changes or amendments to the Agreement are being requested, the Parties shall inform the ADR Systems case manager by telephone. The agreed proposal must also be submitted to the ADR Systems case manager in writing, by fax or email, if necessary, and the contract changes MUST be made by ADR Systems. No changes made outside these guidelines will be accepted. Furthermore, if the amended contract made by ADR Systems is not signed by both Parties, the Agreement shall be enforced in its original form, without changes.

C. Pre-Hearing Submission

1. Mediation statements are permitted provided that the statement is shared among the other parties. The Mediation Statement may include: statement of facts, including a description of the injury and a list of special damages and expenses incurred and expected to be incurred; and a theory of liability and damages and authorities in support thereof.

D. Evidentiary Rules

1. The Parties agree that the following documents are allowed into evidence, without foundation or other proof, provided that said items are served upon the Mediator and the opposing Party at least **xx(xxxxxxxxxx)** days prior to the hearing date:
 - a. Medical records and medical bills for medical services;
 - b. Bills for drugs and medical appliances (for example, prostheses);
 - c. Property repair bills or estimates;
 - d. Reports of lost time from employment, and / or lost compensation or wages;
 - e. The written statement of any expert witness, the deposition of a witness, the statement of a witness, to which the witness would be allowed to express if testifying in person, if the statement is made by affidavit sworn to under oath or by certification as provided in section 1-109 of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure;
 - f. Photographs;
 - g. Police reports;
 - h. Any other document not specifically covered by any of the foregoing provisions that a Party believes in good faith should be considered by the Mediator; and

- i. Each Party may introduce any other evidence, including but not limited to documents or exhibits, in accordance with the rules of evidence of the State of Illinois.
2. The Parties agree that they will not disclose any and all dollar figures relating to the high/low agreement; last offer and last demand; policy limits; and /or set-offs orally or in written form, to the Mediator at any time before or during the conference, or while under advisement, prior to the Mediator's final decision.
 - a. Violation of this rule set forth in (D)(2) shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement. The non-disclosing Party must formally object to the Mediator upon learning of the breach, or the breach will be considered waived. The non-disclosing Party shall then have the option to continue the Mediation from the point of objection to its completion; or to terminate the Mediation at the point of objection as null and void. The ADR Systems case manager must be made aware of this breach at the time of the objection, so the objection is addressed in accordance with the Agreement; and
 - b. If the Mediation is terminated as null and void, all costs of the Mediation will be charged entirely to the disclosing Party. A new Mediation shall then take place with a new Mediator on a new date. If the Mediation is not terminated, the costs of the Mediation shall remain the responsibility of each Party or in accordance with the Agreement.
3. The Parties agree if a Party has an objection to the evidence or material submitted by any other Party pursuant to Paragraph (D)(1), notice of the objection shall be given to the ADR Systems case manager and opposing counsel by telephone and in writing at least seven days prior to the Mediation. If resolution cannot be obtained, the case manager will forward the objection to the Mediator to be ruled upon before or at the Mediation. The case manager will notify each of the Parties of the objection. The objection may result in a postponement of the proceedings. **If the objection is because of new material being disclosed with the submission for the first time (for example, new or additional reports, additional medical/wage loss claims, etc.) then the disclosing party shall be charged for the total cost associated with the continuance.**
4. The Parties agree that any Party desiring to introduce any of the items described in Paragraph (D)(1) without foundation or other proof, must deliver said items to the Mediator and to the other Parties no later than **xxxxxxxxxxxx**.
5. The items are considered delivered as of the date that one of the following events occur:
 - a. If mailed, by the date of the postmark;

- b. If delivered by a courier or a messenger, the date the item is received by the courier or messenger; and
- c. The date transmitted by facsimile or email.

6. The Parties agree to deliver any of the items described in Paragraph (C)(1) and (D)(1) to the following addresses:

If emailing submissions, please send them to submissions@adrsystems.com, however, please do not send anything over 50 pages, including exhibits.

XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX

E. Conference Procedure

- 1. The Parties may present opening statements but there will be no live testimony.
- 2. The Parties will attempt to reach a voluntary settlement through negotiation with the assistance of the Mediator.
- 3. If the Parties cannot voluntarily reach a settlement, the Mediator will advise the Parties that settlement cannot be reached. The Mediator will then take the matter under advisement and render an award that will be binding to all Parties, (the "Award"), subject to the terms of any high/low agreement that the Parties may have as described below in Paragraph (F)(1).

F. Award Limits

- 1. The Parties may agree prior to the Mediation that a minimum and maximum amount will serve as parameters for the Award (sometimes referred to as a "high/low agreement"), such that the actual amount that must be paid to the plaintiff or claimant shall not exceed a certain amount (the "high" or "maximum award") and shall not be less than a certain amount (the "low" or "minimum award").
 - a. If liability is disputed and comparative fault or negligence is asserted as an affirmative defense, the Mediator shall make a finding regarding comparative fault or negligence, if any. In the event that there is a finding of comparative fault or negligence of the plaintiff that is greater than 50% (fifty percent), the plaintiff shall receive the negotiated minimum award. In the event that there is a finding of comparative fault or negligence of 50% (fifty percent) or less against the plaintiff, then any

damages awarded in favor of the plaintiff shall be reduced by the amount of the plaintiff's comparative fault or negligence, but shall be no less than the minimum parameter or more than the maximum parameter.

- b. All award minimum and maximum parameters are subject to applicable set-offs if any, as governed by policy provisions if not specified in the Agreement.

The Parties agree that for this Mediation the minimum award to **xxxxxxx** will be **\$xxxxxxx**. Also, the maximum award to **xxxxxxx** will be **\$xxxxxxx**. These amounts reflect the minimum and maximum amounts of money that **xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx** shall be liable to pay to **xxxxxxx**.

IV. Effect of this Agreement

- A. After the commencement of the Mediation, no Party shall be permitted to cancel this Agreement or the Mediation and the Mediator shall render a decision that shall be in accordance with the terms set forth in this Agreement. When the Award is rendered, the Mediation is resolved, and any Award arising from this Mediation shall operate as a bar and complete defense to any action or proceeding in any court or tribunal that may arise from the same incident upon which the Mediation is based.
- B. The Parties further agree that any pending litigation will be dismissed, with prejudice, as to those Parties participating in this Mediation upon the conclusion thereof. Any and all liens, including contractual rights of subrogation owed are subject to existing Illinois law. By agreement of the Parties, the Mediator's Award will be final and binding and not subject to appeal or motion for reconsideration by any Party.

V. Mediation Costs

A. ADR Systems Fee Schedule

1. A deposit is required for the Administrative Fee, Mediator's estimated review, session, and follow-up time ("Mediation Costs"). Binding Mediations are billed at a three hour per day minimum, which includes an estimated two hours for session time and one hour for review time. **The required deposit amount is \$xxxxxx per Party and is due by xxxxxxxx.** Any unused portion of the deposit will be refunded based on the three hour minimum. If the Mediator's review, session and follow-up time go over the estimated amount, each Party will be invoiced for the additional time.
2. Mediation Costs are usually divided equally among all Parties, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Parties. **ADR Systems must be notified of special fee arrangements.**

3. All deposits are due two weeks prior to the session. ADR Systems reserves the right to cancel a session if deposits are not received from all Parties two weeks prior to the session.
4. ADR Systems requires **xx-day** notice in writing or via electronic transmission of cancellation or continuance. For Mediations cancelled or continued within **xx** days of the session, the Party causing the cancellation will be billed for the Mediation Costs of all the Parties involved, which includes the three hour per day minimum, additional review time, and any other expenses incurred. If the cancellation is by agreement of all Parties, or if the case has settled, the cancellation fees will be split equally among all Parties, unless ADR Systems is instructed otherwise. The cancellation fees may be waived if the Mediator's lost time can be filled by another matter.

| | |
|---|---|
| Administrative Fee | \$xxx.xx per Party (Non-refundable) |
| Mediator's Review Time | \$xxx.xx per hour, split equally between Parties |
| Session Time | \$xxx.xx per hour, split equally between Parties |
| Mediator's Decision Writing Time | \$xxx.xx per hour, split equally between Parties |
| Mediator's Travel Time (if any) | \$xxx.xx per hour, split equally between Parties |

B. Responsibility for Payment

1. Each Party and its counsel (including that counsel's firm) shall be jointly and severally responsible for the payment of that Party's allocated share of the Mediation Costs as set forth above.
2. All expenses and disbursements made by ADR Systems in connection with the Mediation, including, but not limited to, outside room rental fee, meals, express mail and messenger charges, and any other charges associated with the Mediation, will be billed equally to the Parties, at the time of the invoice.
3. In the event that a Party and/or its counsel fails to pay ADR Systems in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, then that Party and/or its counsel shall be responsible for all costs, including attorney's fees, incurred by ADR Systems in connection with the collection of any amount due and owing. Payment of additional costs incurred by ADR Systems in connection with the collection of any amount due and owing shall be made within 15 days of invoice.

VI. Acknowledgment of Agreement

- A. By signing this Agreement, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to all the provisions as set forth above.**
- B. Each Party is responsible for only his/her own signature where indicated, and will submit this signed Agreement to ADR Systems within 10 days of receipt of the Agreement. Counsel may sign on behalf of the Party.**

By: _____
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Date

By: _____
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Date

By: _____
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

By: _____
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Date

Date of Hearing: XXXXXXXXXXXXX
ADR Systems File # XXXXXXXXXXXXX
Insurance Claim # XXXXXXXXXXXXX
ADR Systems Tax I.D. # XXXXXXXXXXXXX

