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During this COVID-19 outbreak, ADR Options is providing all our services through Zoom videoconferencing at no additional cost. Click [HERE](#) to submit your case.

Mediation in Exile



Edward Gray Esq.

"Never say that you can't do something or that something seems impossible, or that something can't be done, no matter how discouraging or harrowing it may be; human beings are limited only by what we allow ourselves to be limited by: our minds. We are each masters of our own reality; when we become self-aware to this: absolutely anything in this world is possible"

Anonymous in Exile

The magic of face to face mediations lies in the intimacy of the interaction. Empathy, trust, understanding and compromise arise from that intimacy. None of that seems possible while we live and work in exile.

Social distancing, stay at home orders, isolation and lack of human interaction disrupts the rhythm of our lives and profession. Daily routines and expectations of how to do business have been altered creating a new normal that, if even for the short term, has us rethinking how to solve problems, discuss issues and resolve differences. Yet it need not take us back to a time when face to face social interaction was not as common. Times when a distant voice over a telephone or words in a letter laid out disputes, compromises and settlements.

That time is not our time. We live in a time of technological wonder where virtual realities can create an intimacy not quite the same as face to face, but within an embrace of being the same.

Face to face mediations will not be a reasonable expectation for some time. However, cases need to be mediated so the system does not stagnate. Clients, particularly those in personal injury litigation, cannot wait for the return of the old normalcy.

Communication technology platforms, such as Zoom, has gifted us the ability to do virtual mediations. Whatever, the platform, we can now gather in our virtual conference rooms. Our face to face may be distant in space but it is immediate in time. We see each other, we talk to each other, we separate, we conference, we tell stories, we confide, we build intimacy and trust. We disagree and ultimately agree, either in settlement or good faith differences. This gift of technology will benefit the process even when a return to the old normal dawns on the hoped-for near horizon. Where costs or availability makes travelling to a mediation prohibitive or difficult, the mediation can take place with some sitting at their place of business and others gathered together in a conference room in a distant city. This blend will increase the productivity while controlling costs and time invested in mediation.

Mediation in exile is not mediation in isolation. ADR options can offer a platform to bring you a virtual face to face absent the travel time. It is not the same as handshake or hug at the start of a meeting, but it does allow you to see warm smiles when you greet each other. And, with luck, determination, persistence and patience it can end with a warm embrace of the experience.

To schedule a mediation or arbitration with [Ed Gray](#) or any of our [neutrals](#), please email mcarney@adoptions.com or click below:

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