

See How Rapid Rulings Compares – Detailed View

	Court	Arbitration	Mediation	Rapid Rulings
Time to Resolve	Uncertain; often years	Uncertain; often years	Uncertain	Known
Who Resolves	Jury, judge, and/or appellate justices	One or more attorneys or experts in field	The parties, with the assistance of a mediator (usually an attorney)	Experienced, unbiased attorney
Attorney Necessary	Nearly all parties are represented by counsel	Not required, but common	Not required, but common	Not required
Cost of Forum	Filings fees	Filing Fees; Hourly rate of each arbitrator	Hourly rate of mediator	Per page submitted by party
Who determines cost of system used	Government	For fees, an arbitration organization; for arbitrators, each sets own hourly rate	Mediator sets hourly rate	Explicit cost per page set by Rapid Rulings; Number of pages controlled by party
Amount of Attorney Fees	Fee set by attorney; often total is unpredictable	Fee set by attorney; often total is unpredictable	Fee set by attorney; often total is unpredictable	Party could control by negotiating a flat fee for the submissions
Public	Yes	No	No	No
Transparent	Rarely speaks with one party without the other present	May contact parties separately	Nearly all contact with parties is separate	All communication is shared with all parties
Publicly Evaluated by Parties	No	No	No	Yes
Unconscious bias possible	Yes	Yes	Yes	No. Due to its digital nature, the race, ethnicity, age, disability, clothing, voice, or other physical aspects are unknown

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Procedures	Technical	Technical	Understandable	Simple and clear
Discovery (depositions, document production)	Usual, and court mandated, extending to those outside the case	Usual, and can be mandated; limited ability to seek evidence from those outside the case	May exchange position statements or documents at mediator's request	Parties decide what documents, photos, etc. they provide
Settlement Occurs	Parties can initiate at any time, unless court orders otherwise	Parties can initiate at any time	Mediation may be court ordered; sincere attempts to settle are expected	Parties can initiate at any time
Excessive Award with Verdict	Possible	Possible	Parties choose how much to pay in settlement	Parties agree to a limitation on the amount of money that can be awarded
Appeal	Losing Party may appeal to higher court(s)	Losing party may, under limited circumstances, challenge the ruling in court	No appeal	Parties contract for a binding resolution

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