

The Opposite of “Judge Judy” in a...



Judge Judy

Parties admonished for addressing each other – instructed to only address judge

Dirty the other party up so that the judge will find you more deserving and therefore rule in your favor

- “His mother just drinks beer and watches soap operas all day”
- “He doesn’t even have a car seat”
- “She went to jail for possession of marijuana”

Formal, adversarial procedure – hearsay not admissible in court

“Show me the evidence, receipt, contract, or written agreement”

Tell the court what happened (focus on the past)

Judge Judy has all the power

A judge who *has never met you* determines the outcome of your case

Mediation

Whenever possible, parties address each other

No need to “dirty up” the other party, mediators make no decisions and no rulings

} Not relevant

Informal, collaborative process – no rules – everything open for discussion

No evidence requirement, but lying or lack of full disclosure will invalidate agreement

Let’s talk about how you’ll move **forward** (focus on the future) **FedEx**

YOU have all the power

YOU determine the outcome of your case