

**SUMMARY OF CALIFORNIA STATUTES RELATING TO
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION
AND THE INTERNAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES OF
THE CARMEL VIEWS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**SUMMARY OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE
SECTIONS 5925 THROUGH 5965**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: California Civil Code Sections 5925 through 5965 address your rights to sue the association or another member of the association regarding the enforcement of the governing documents, the non-profit mutual benefit corporation law, and/or the Davis-Stirling Common Interest Development Act. The following is a summary of the provisions of Civil Code Sections 5925 through 5965, as enacted effective January 1, 2014.

In general, Civil Code Sections 5925 through 5965 encourage parties to a dispute involving enforcement of an association's governing documents, the non-profit mutual benefit corporation law, and/or the Davis-Stirling Common Interest Development Act to submit the dispute to a form of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) such as mediation or arbitration prior to filing a lawsuit. The intent of the statute is to promote speedy and cost-effective resolution of such disputes, to better preserve community cohesiveness and to channel disputes away from our state's court system.

Under Civil Code Sections 5925 through 5965, the form of alternative dispute resolution may be binding or non-binding and the costs will be borne equally or as agreed to by the parties involved.

Any party to a dispute regarding enforcement of the governing documents, the non-profit mutual benefit corporation law, and/or the Davis-Stirling Common Interest Development Act may initiate the process of ADR by serving a Request for Resolution on another party to the dispute. A Request for Resolution must contain (1) a brief description of the nature of the dispute, (2) a request for ADR, and (3) a notice that the party receiving the Request for Resolution is required to respond within 30 days of receipt or the Request will be deemed rejected.

If the Request is accepted, the ADR must be completed within 90 days of the acceptance, unless otherwise agreed by the parties. Any Request for Resolution sent to the member of a separate interest must include a copy of Civil Code Chapter 7, Article 2 (Alternative Dispute Resolution), Sections 5925 et seq., in its entirety.

FAILURE OF A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION TO COMPLY WITH THE ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 5930 OF THE CIVIL CODE MAY RESULT IN THE LOSS OF YOUR RIGHT TO SUE THE ASSOCIATION OR ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION REGARDING ENFORCEMENT OF THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS OR THE APPLICABLE LAW.

Should the association or an individual member wish to file a lawsuit for enforcement of the association's governing documents that is solely for declaratory, injunctive, or writ relief, or for that relief in conjunction with a claim for monetary damages not in excess of the jurisdictional limits of small claims court (as of January 1, 2012, ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for individuals or five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for homeowner associations),

the law requires the association or the individual to file a certificate with the court stating that one or more of the following conditions has been satisfied: (1) ADR has been completed in accordance with the statute; (2) one of the other parties to the dispute did not accept ADR; and/or (3) preliminary or injunctive relief is necessary. Failure to file this certificate can be grounds for dismissing the lawsuit. There are limited exceptions to the filing of this required certificate for small claims actions, or some assessment disputes.

Furthermore, in any enforcement action in which attorney's fees and costs may be awarded, under Civil Code 5960, the court may consider any party's refusal to participate in ADR prior to the lawsuit being filed when it determines the amount of the award.

SUMMARY OF INTERNAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES OF THE CARMEL VIEWS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Pursuant to Civil Code Section 5915 (Civil Code Section 5900, et seq.), either the association or a homeowner who is involved in a dispute regarding the Governing Documents, the non-profit mutual benefit corporation law, and/or the Davis-Stirling Common Interest Development Act may invoke the following procedure, which supplements the pre-litigation procedures described above (it does not replace such procedures):

- (1) The party may request the other party to meet and confer in an effort to resolve the dispute. The request shall be in writing.
- (2) A member of an association may refuse a request to meet and confer. The association may not refuse a request to meet and confer.
- (3) The board shall designate a director to meet and confer.
- (4) The parties shall meet promptly at a mutually convenient time and place, explain their positions to each other, and confer in good faith in an effort to resolve the dispute.
- (5) A resolution of the dispute agreed to by the parties shall be memorialized in writing and signed by the parties, including the board designee on behalf of the association.
- (6) An agreement reached under this section binds the parties and is judicially enforceable if both of the following conditions are satisfied:
 - (i) The agreement is not in conflict with California law or the governing documents of the common interest development or association.
 - (ii) The agreement is either consistent with the authority granted by the board to its designee or the agreement is ratified by the board.
- (7) A member may not be charged a fee to participate in the process.