

The Opposite of “Judge Judy” in a Nutshell



Judge Judy’s Court

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