



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH KEYSTONE BUILDING
Office of Administrative Law Judge
400 NORTH STREET
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120
February 13, 2026

In Re: F-2025-3057521

(SEE ATTACHED LIST)

**Donald Jerome Brown v The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
d/b/a Pittsburgh Water**

Billing Dispute

Scheduling Notice of Availability for Formal Mediation Session

All parties have voluntarily agreed to participate in a formal mediation. During a formal mediation session, you may be asked to discuss how your proposed solutions would resolve the interests of everyone involved in this case. Please remember that mediation does not work if one or both parties have an unyielding position.

This mediation session will be scheduled using the Teams virtual platform, unless both parties request an in-person mediation to be held at the PUC's Harrisburg keystone Building or other PUC location in the Commonwealth such as Pittsburg or Philadelphia. Additional information regarding use of the Teams virtual platform is provided below.

Below are the days and start times that the assigned mediator has available to docket a Formal Mediation Session. The time slots are for 2-to-3-hour mediations. If you feel an all-day mediation is appropriate, then please choose a day with both a morning and an afternoon time slot listed and specify in bold that an ALL-DAY mediation is requested.

March 3, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. start time.

March 18, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. start time.

March 19, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. start time.

March 20, Friday, 10:00 a.m. start time.

March 24, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. start time.

March 25, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. start time.

March 27, Friday, 10:00 a.m. start time.

March 31, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. start time.

April 1, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. start time.

April 2, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. start time.

April 14, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. start time.

April 21, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. start time.

April 22, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. start time.

April 23, Thursday, 1:00 p.m. start time.

April 24, Friday, 10:00 a.m. start time.

April 28, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. start time.

May 12, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. start time.

May 14, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. start time.

May 15, Friday, 10:00 a.m. start time.

May 19, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. start time.

May 20, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. start time.

May 21, Thursday, 1:00 p.m. start time.

May 22, Friday, 10:00 a.m. start time.

As soon as possible email the Mediator Rhoades at terhoades@pa.gov with a list of ALL dates and times you are available to attend a Formal Mediation Session and if you request an all-day mediation session. Mediation Session dates are assigned on a first come, first docketed basis. Please “reply all” and let the group know which dates you are available for a Formal Mediation Session. *If you do not have access to email, you can call the assigned scheduler, Cadi Eberly, and provide her with the dates and times you are available for a mediation session. OR you can call Ms. Rhoades after 5pm, speak slowly to her voice mail stating your name and the days and times you are available for a mediation session.*

If you are a person with a disability, and you wish to attend the mediation session, we may be able to make arrangements for your special needs. Please call the Public Utility Commission.

- Scheduling Office: 717-787-1399
- Persons who are deaf or hearing-impaired may call a relay operator at 711.

GOOD FAITH FACTORS FOR MEDIATION SESSIONS

GOOD FAITH INCLUDES, AMONG OTHER THINGS:

1. GIVING THE PARTICIPANTS, PRIOR TO THE FIRST SESSION, ALL THE INFORMATION THEY NEED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE CASE. (The Commission believes “that formal discovery procedures are not appropriate in the informal [mediation] process.” *Pa. Bul., Vol. 25, No. 20*, May 20, 1995, p. 1996. Therefore, discoverable information should be discovered informally.)
2. BEING FULLY PREPARED WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE CASE AND WITH POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR RESOLVING THE CASE.
3. BEING WILLING TO CREATE OPTIONS TO RESOLVE A MATTER, CONSIDERING HOW THE SOLUTION MUST ADDRESS THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PARTIES, AS OPPOSED TO TAKING AN UNYIELDING POSITION.
4. HAVING THE PERSON WITH THE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE TERMS FOR RESOLUTION ATTEND THE MEDIATION SESSION, OR, AT LEAST, BE AVAILABLE TO CONFER WITH THE PARTY’S REPRESENTATIVE DURING THE MEDIATION REGARDING APPROVAL OF TERMS.
5. DEMONSTRATING A WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN AND TO UNDERSTAND THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE OTHER PARTIES.
6. BEING WILLING TO SPEND THE ENTIRE DAY, IF NECESSARY, AT THE SESSION.

PBA Working Rules for Professionalism

The practice of law is a profession, a genuine calling inspired with service to the system of justice, not a common business enterprise. The quality of the profession is only as worthy as the character of the people who practice it.

Self-esteem, shared respect for each other, the clients we serve, the judges and the officers with whom we work, are essential to it.

Civility is a virtue, not a shortcoming. Willingness to temper zeal with respect for society's interest in preserving responsible judicial process will help to preserve it.

Unwritten rules of professional courtesy have long sustained us. Since they are sometimes forgotten, or sometimes ignored, we should set them down again and conscientiously observe them.

1. Treat with civility the lawyers, clients, opposing parties, the Court, and all the officials with whom we work. Professional courtesy is compatible with vigorous advocacy and zealous representation.
2. Communications are lifelines. Keep the lines open. Telephone calls and correspondence are a two-way channel; respond to them promptly.
3. Respect other lawyers' schedules as your own. Seek agreement on meetings, depositions, hearings and trial dates. A reasonable request for a scheduling accommodation should never be unreasonably refused.
4. Be punctual in appointments, communications and in honoring scheduled appearances. Neglect and tardiness are demeaning to others and to the judicial system.
5. Procedural rules are necessary to judicial order and decorum. Be mindful that pleadings, discovery processes and motions cost time and money. They should not be heedlessly used. If an adversary is entitled to something, provide it without unnecessary formalities.
6. Grant extensions of time when they are reasonable and when they will not have a material, adverse effect on your client's interest.
7. Resolve differences through negotiation, expeditiously and without needless expense.
8. Enjoy what you are doing and the company you keep. You and the world will be better for it.

Beyond all this, the respect of our peers and the society which we serve is the ultimate measure of responsible professional conduct.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A VIRTUAL MEDIATION SESSION, WITH MEDIATOR RHOADES, USING THE TEAMS PLATFORM

Public Utility Commission = “PUC”

Office of Administrative Law Judge = “OALJ”

Mediation Unit = “MedU”

1) Prepare for Your Comfort

- A) Have something to drink close by and maybe a snack.
- B) Do a test run at your work surface using the chair you plan to sit in during the session. Spread out all the documents you may use and set up your computer or phone workstation to ensure you have enough room, it is a private place, and you can work there comfortably.
- C) Dress Appropriately: dress as you would for a formal in-person mediation session. Do not wear distracting clothing such as geometric patterns, or other dense patterns because cameras may not ‘read’ or see you correctly. Solid colors are recommended in a virtual setting.

2) Prepare The Documents for Your Case, Which May Include

- A) An outline and/or timeline of how your case started to present day.
- B) Position papers.
- C) Utility bills, contracts, and/or photographs.
- D) Affidavits or statements by witnesses.
- E) Prepare your exhibits and documents you wish to show or present to the mediator or other party.
 - i) Scan in your exhibits and save them in your computer files or
 - ii) Take pictures of files or subject matter and save the pictures as files in your computer.
- F) If needed, call or email the mediator to schedule a time to discuss and/or practice using the TEAMS virtual meeting platform to present your exhibits.
- G) Anything else you feel is pertinent to prove your case.

3) Becoming Comfortable with Technology

- A) Have a brief practice session with the mediator, your lawyer, or a friend. Learn how to use the breakout rooms for a caucus.
- B) Have a backup technology plan in case your chosen tech does not work when you need it. [Any phone can be used to call in to a virtual session; however, you will not be able to see anything presented on the screen.]

Become familiar with virtual rooms which may include a main room, complainant room(s), respondent room(s), and/or mediator’s breakout room.

F-2025-3057521 - DONALD JEROME BROWN v. THE PITTSBURGH WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY D/B/A PITTSBURGH WATER

DONALD JEROME BROWN
7344 MONTICELLO STREET
APARTMENT 1
PITTSBURGH PA 15208
878.201.8590

Served via USPS First Class Mail February 13, 2026

LAUREN M. BURGE ESQUIRE
ECKERT SEAMANS CHERIN & MELLOTT LLC
600 GRANT STREET 44TH FLOOR
PITTSBURGH PA 15219
412.566.2146
502.352.0691

lburge@eckertseamans.com

Served via eService February 17, 2026

(Counsel for The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority d/b/a Pittsburgh Water)

BRYCE R. BEARD ATTORNEY
ECKERT SEAMANS CHERIN & MELLOTT LLC
213 MARKET STREET, 8TH FLOOR
HARRISBURG PA 17101
717.237.6041
717.858.3339

bbeard@eckertseamans.com

Served via eService February 17, 2026

(Counsel for The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority d/b/a Pittsburgh Water)