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Deering's California Codes Annotated  
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CALIFORNIA RULES OF COURT  
Title 3. Civil Rules  
Division 9. References  
Chapter 2. Court-Ordered Reference Under Code of Civil Procedure Section 639

*Cal Rules of Court, Rule 3.920 (2014)*

**Rule 3.920. Purposes and conditions for appointment of referee**

**(a) Purposes prescribed by statute** A court may order the appointment of a referee under *Code of Civil Procedure section 639* only for the purposes specified in that section.

**(b) No references for mediation** A court must not use the reference procedure under *Code of Civil Procedure section 639* to appoint a person to conduct a mediation.

**(c) Conditions for appointment of discovery referee** A discovery referee must not be appointed under *Code of Civil Procedure section 639(a)(5)* unless the exceptional circumstances of the particular case require the appointment.

**HISTORY:**

Rule 3.920 adopted effective January 1, 2007.

**NOTES:**

**Advisory Committee Comment**

Rule 3.920(b) is not intended to prohibit a court from appointing a referee to conduct a mandatory settlement conference in a complex case or, following the conclusion of a reference, from appointing a person who previously served as a referee to conduct a mediation.