

INFORMATION ABOUT MEDIATION SERVICES

Community Mediation Services, Inc. was founded in 1983 as a private, non-profit organization. The program brings people together to resolve disputes in a constructive manner. The program is governed by community residents and operates with financial support from public and private sources.

Mediators at CMS are community volunteers with various backgrounds, interests, and occupations. Each has received state-certified 30 hour initial training as well as required continuing education each year (a minimum of 6 hours).

If you would like additional information, please call our office. Our staff can answer your questions and help determine whether your situation is appropriate for mediation.

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HARASSMENT MEDIATION



Community Mediation Services, Inc.

We are committed to developing the capacity of our community to respectfully manage and resolve conflict.

HARASSMENT MEDIATION

What is Harassment?

Harassment is defined by MN Statute 609.748s1 as "a single incident of physical or sexual assault or repeated incidents of intrusive or unwanted acts, words or gestures that have a substantial adverse effect or are intended to have a substantial adverse effect on the safety, security or privacy of another, regardless of the relationship between the actor and the intended target."

Examples of Disputes Where Mediation May be Beneficial

- Disputes between neighbors
- Disputes between co-workers/
former co-workers
- Disputes between
friends/former friends
- Disputes between students

"I am very happy with the outcome of this mediation session. The mediators were very helpful and knowledgeable."
-Mediation Participant

EXPLANATION OF MEDIATION

Mediation is a voluntary process that brings people together in a safe and neutral setting with one or more mediators. (Mediations can be held with participants in separate conference rooms with mediators shuttling between rooms.)

The meeting is an informal discussion in which both participants are given time to describe their concerns. The mediators facilitate the discussion, ask questions, and write up any agreement the participants reach. The mediators are not judges and will not impose a solution. The agreement is the responsibility of the participants themselves. Because the agreement reflects decisions made by the participants, mediated agreements enjoy high rates of compliance.

OPENING A CASE

Anyone who is interested in resolving his or her conflict through mediation may open a case with us. To do so, we will need the names, addresses, and daytime phone numbers of all participants involved in this dispute. We can take this information by phone, fax, e-mail, or letter. The participants do not need to agree to mediation before we are contacted.

BENEFITS OF MEDIATION

- Confidentiality
Staff and Mediators are bound by law to maintain confidentiality.
- Control over the solution
You decide what is best for you.
- Closure
Decisively resolve issues that have been persistent.
- Cost
Fees are significantly less than typical lawyers' and for-profit mediators' fees. No one is denied service for inability to pay.
- Convenience
Mediation sessions are scheduled at the participants' earliest convenience.

LIMITS OF MEDIATION

CMS cannot provide mediation services where there is a history of domestic, chemical or alcohol abuse.

This brochure is intended to be a guide only. It is not intended as legal advice.