

Resolving Differences Through Communication

Our society is not a place where face-to-face, honest, effective communication takes place very often. When we don't get what we want, we go to court. Unfortunately, someone still loses every court case. Going to court does not guarantee a happy outcome.

Mediation is an alternative to court, one in which both parties talk through their disagreement with the help of a trained facilitator. "Talking about it" may not have the glamour factor that "taking it to court" might seem to have. However, when you take an issue to court you don't gain control - you lose control. Often you are simply trading one set of problems for another set.

The Community Resolution Center gives people a better way to solve disagreements: one that is peaceful and constructive; one that requires fewer public resources and more personal accountability. Our mediation services help people communicate and solve problems together.

"People who have been fighting for months can fix a problem in two hours once they start talking to each other."

— Volunteer Mediator



Community Resolution Center

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The Community Resolution Center provides mediation services in Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Midland, Ogemaw, Roscommon and Saginaw counties.

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Community Resolution Center



Helping People
Reach Agreement



What is Mediation?

Mediation is a process in which a trained volunteer facilitator (or mediator) helps people listen to each other, discuss issues, and find agreement.

The mediator does not impose a solution: he or she simply creates an environment in which the parties can talk with each other so that they find their own solution. The mediator is also not a judge. He or she does not “give the answer” or determine right or wrong. The mediator allows both parties to be heard, and helps them talk to each other to reach agreement. That agreement is then documented and signed by both parties, which makes it legally binding.



Who Can Use Mediation?

Mediation can be used by people who disagree about almost anything, including:

- Any case that could be brought to small claims court
- Family differences
- Disagreements between neighbors
- Property damage
- Business and contract disputes
- Landlord-tenant issues
- Contested wills and inheritance issues
- Cases regarding school truancy
- Special education cases
- Divorce and property settlement
- Custody and visitation issues

Why Use Mediation?

- It's fast. A mediation can typically be scheduled in 1-2 weeks. Most problems are resolved in one meeting of two hours or less.
- It's private. Everything you say in mediation is confidential.
- It works. About 70-80% of our cases are mediated to agreement, and people usually stick to the agreement because they create it.
- It's binding. When two parties sign a mediation agreement, it is a legal document that both are required to follow.
- It's a first step. If you don't reach agreement, you still have the option of court.

What Does Mediation Cost?

Each party pays a \$100* fee, which is due at the time the mediation takes place. A \$25 fee will be charged to any party who cancels with less than 48 hours notice. **Note: fees can be lowered for clients with verifiable financial need.**

Learn More To learn more or to schedule a mediation, please contact us at 800-873-7658. You can also find more information on our website at www.mediation-crc.org.

* An additional \$25 administration fee may apply, depending on the case.

“Ninety percent of our clients say they would use mediation again.”

— Staff Member