

## Volunteer Mediators

Mediators are volunteers who have completed the 40-hour training course that meets the standards set by the Michigan Supreme Court for basic community mediation training and have observed 10 hours of mediation. The 40-hour training is offered periodically by the E.U.P. Community Dispute Resolution Center and the other 20 centers across the State.

Our 50 or so volunteer mediators include several persons with specialized training and experience in one or more of the following specialized areas

- Parent/Child Mediation
- Child Protection Mediation
- Special Education Mediation
- Domestic Relations Mediation or Parenting Time Mediation
- Victim/Offender Mediation

At least one of the two co-mediators assigned to family cases will be trained and experienced in the appropriate area or areas for the circumstances involved in the mediation.

## Additional Persons at Mediation

Center intake staff will ask those requesting family mediation about parents, children, and others in the home or others involved in the situations to be discussed in mediation. The intake staff and volunteer mediators are trained to determine who needs to be at the table. Intake staff will make recommendations to the requestor, and if the requestor wishes, the intake staff will handle inviting others to the table. Most family mediations involve only parents and teens, but some - especially if matters are already in the court system or involve Special Education - may have several involved persons at the mediation table.

Persons other than parents and youth at the family mediation table may include extended family members, foster parents or other caretakers of youth, child advocates, school personnel, caseworkers, counselors, health providers, attorneys, and anyone important in the current family situation.



## About the Organization...

In 1988, the Michigan legislature established the Community Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) to promote non-court alternatives for resolving disputes. Funding for the program comes from a portion of each filing fee collected in civil cases filed in Michigan courts.

The E.U.P. Community Dispute Resolution Center is one of 20 centers funded in part by the CDRP. The E.U.P. Community Dispute Resolution Center is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 to promote resolution alternatives to the court process. The center provides citizens with the opportunity to mediate disagreements, determine their own solutions and resolve differences.

**1-800-873-7658 or (906) 253-9840**



**E.U.P. Community Dispute Resolution Center, Inc.**

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*Services are provided to all citizens regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, political affiliation, or ability to pay.*



*"The EUP CDRC is a partner agency of United Way of the Eastern Upper Peninsula."*

## E.U.P. Community Dispute Resolution Center

Serving

Chippewa, Luce  
& Mackinac Counties



## Family Mediation

***An alternative way to deal with conflict, and to effectively address the needs of parents and children***

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# Putting Mediation to Work for You

## What Is Mediation?

Mediation is a process that enables people to resolve disputes by talking with one another in an informal, safe and confidential setting. Trained, neutral mediators help the parties come to an agreement without judging right or wrong. Only the parties involved decide what is in the agreement, not the mediator.

Each party describes the dispute from his or her own point of view and offers possible solutions. The mediator helps the parties to focus on the real issues causing the problem, then helps them to find a workable solution. When the parties arrive at an agreement, the agreement is put into writing and becomes a binding contract.

Whether or not you reach an agreement in mediation, your legal rights remain intact. While many problems can be resolved in mediation, you can discuss with your attorney or a mediator whether or not the issues in your case can be mediated. Cases involving on-going violence are never mediated.



## Common Disputes Resolved by Family Mediation

Family difficulties are best addressed early. The family that sits down with neutral mediators and addresses issues early will likely improve their communication skills, heal their relationships, and begin to work together cooperatively to resolve one or more issues. Mediators can open communication between parents and teens and lead them through a discussion that results in a written agreement and a new start towards a healthier life and happier home. Issues that may be addressed include

- Communication breakdown
- Household responsibilities
- School problems including truancy, grades, and behavior
- Use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs
- Curfews
- Peer choices and relationships
- Respect and behaviors
- Family relationships (new or long-standing)
- Family rules
- Single parent concerns



## It works!

Mediation is a “win-win” rather than a “win-lose” solution. Over 80% mediations end in agreement, even when other attempts to settle have failed.

## It's convenient!

Most mediations are scheduled within two weeks, and most disputes are resolved in one meeting. Sessions can be scheduled weekdays, Saturdays, and evenings.

## It's confidential!

Almost everything disclosed during mediation is confidential and cannot be used in a lawsuit. The matter does not become part of the public record.

## It's affordable!

Court costs and attorney fees can be avoided or reduced. Cost of mediation is based on ability to pay.

## It's cooperative, not adversarial!

Mediation provides a comfortable, safe and respectful setting for discussion.

## When Mediation is not appropriate

Mediation is not appropriate if one of the parties uses fear, force, threats, violence or intimidation to get what they want from another party. If a person does not feel able to safely express their opinions in a respectful manner – even in the safe environment of the mediation and in the presence of two neutral mediators – communication and the mediation will not be successful.



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