CREATE A WIN-WIN SOLUTION

Conflicts are usually adversarial. Someone wins...and someone loses. The Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan has a different approach. We help people create their own win-win solutions to disagreements such as parenting, divorce, and other domestic issues.

We provide a neutral environment in which a trained mediator leads people through a process of discussing the issues so that they can resolve their differences.

The mediator does not give legal advice. He or she is not a decision maker, and not a judge. The mediator simply helps people talk together and reach their own decisions.

MISSION:

Our mission is to bring peaceful resolution to disagreements and conflicts; to foster respectful dialogue; and to promote peace with individuals, families and communities through mediation and educational services.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER
OF WEST MICHIGAN

678 Front Ave NW Ste 250
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5368

616-774-0121

Community Dispute Resolution Program
(throughout Michigan)
1-800-873-7658

The Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan provides mediation services in Kent, Isabella, Lake, Montcalm, Mecosta, Newaygo and Osceola counties.

www.drcwm.org

Domestic Mediation Services

DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER
OF WEST MICHIGAN

HOW DOES DOMESTIC MEDIATION WORK?

When two or more parties agree to participate in domestic mediation, they meet with a specially-trained mediator who helps them clarify the issues, gather relevant information, and explore possible solutions. The goal is to agree on a workable arrangement that is acceptable to everyone involved. It may take one session to reach agreement, or it might take several sessions, depending on the complexity of the problem to be resolved.

The parties propose and discuss their own settlement options with guidance from the mediator. Mediators do not provide legal advice or representation. They simply guide the process of discussion so that everyone's voice is heard.

When the parties reach agreement, the mediator draws up a written document that is signed by everyone, and submitted to the court for entry into the legal record.

BENEFITS OF DOMESTIC MEDIATION

Mediation allows parties to reach their own agreements about many different issues with the help of a trained mediator. Why should you consider mediation as an alternative to the courts?

- Cost Savings: mediation is often much less expensive than other legal options.
- Improved Communication: parties learn how to have cooperative, productive future conversations.
- Privacy: mediation is confidential unless there is a court order requiring information to be shared, or unless there are threats of harm to a child or another person.
- Participant Driven: mediation allows parties to decide what is best for their own family.
- Commitment: people who reach their own agreements tend to follow through on those commitments.

FEE SCHEDULE

Your total fee for mediation is based on how many sessions are required. Each case starts with a $25 intake fee. The per-session fee thereafter is based on a sliding income scale. Many issues can be resolved in one session; however some require more than one session.

DIVORCE MEDIATION

Divorce mediation is a cooperative process, led by a trained facilitator. It helps people make informed decisions and develop mutually acceptable agreements concerning issues such as property division, debt, and parenting arrangements. When the issues are resolved, a written agreement is developed by the mediator and signed by each party.

PARENTING MEDIATION

Parents have a lifelong obligation to do what is best for their child. Parents who learn to work cooperatively, instead of fighting against each other, create a healthier environment for their child and less stress for themselves. In parenting mediation, a trained facilitator helps parents discuss and reach agreement on issues such as parenting time, discipline, religious upbringing, financial responsibility and education.

MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to know more about domestic mediation, please call the Dispute Resolution Center at 616.774.0121 or visit our web site at www.drcwm.org.