

June 2022



UPDATES FROM THE BOARD

- ❖ The CDRC successfully completed the Family Mediation training May 26-27. While the class numbers were down from previous sessions, the participants all brought a rich mixture of education and experiences to the training. Thanks to all the trainers and CDRC volunteers who helped out.
- ❖ Due to a backlog of landlord/tenant cases in District Court, the CDRC agreed to take some of them on via Zoom. They are now being posted in When-To-Help, please sign-up if you are able!
- ❖ The Lion's Club will be presenting the grant for the CDRC at our Volunteer Appreciation Event, be sure to attend!
- ❖ The CDRC has purchased a new hotspot, which can be checked out from the Clerk's office at the Courthouse when doing in-person mediations. The hotspot will allow for reliable Wi-Fi at the Courthouse. Please let us know if you have any feedback on how the hotspot is working for you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer Appreciation Event:

June 29th, 6:00-8:00PM @ Jaker's Bar and Grill (3515 Brooks St, Missoula, MT 59801)

OPENING STATEMENT HAS BEEN UPDATED

Introductions

• Names of the mediator(s), parties, attorneys, and observers • Explain the role of the observers, ask permission for them to attend. • Thank you for coming today. As stated in your order to appear for this mediation, there is an expectation from the Judge that you engage in this process with "willingness to listen" and put forth a "good faith" effort in an attempt to resolve your dispute. • Regardless of the outcome, a report will be filed with the Court by the mediator noting who was in attendance and if the case was settled or at impasse.

Mediators

• Are volunteers from the Community Dispute Resolution Center. • Are here to assist as impartial guides through the mediation process. • Are not allowed to give advice or evaluate the merits of your case.

Mediation Process

• All parties must have decision making authority to resolve the issues within this dispute. • Each party will be given equal opportunity to present their view. • Mediation is a confidential process – nothing leaves the room. • Threats of violence or criminal acts are excluded from confidentiality. • Information shared during mediations cannot be used in any other complaint or forum - mediators and observers cannot be called to testify. • If agreement is reached it will be written up and signed by both parties. • Signed agreements are filed with the Court and are binding as if decided by the judge.

Private Meeting (Caucus)

• Is a meeting between the mediator(s) and one of the parties. • Can be called by any of the parties or the mediator(s) • An opportunity to explore ideas and options privately Last Updated May 2021 Page 1 of 2 • Confidential – information cannot be shared by the mediator(s) without consent of the party. • All parties will have equal opportunity to caucus.

Miscellaneous Comments

• There is no mandate that you settle in mediation – each party is empowered to decide what works for them. • Mediations are generally successful because the parties are empowered to craft solutions that work for them. • The ability to reach an agreement is often more important than the facts.

Ground Rules

• Be respectful and courteous • Recognize there are at least two truths in the room • Let the other party speak without interruption • Take notes for when it is your turn to speak. • Seek solutions

Get permission of each party to move forward with the mediation.

ANY FEEDBACK?

- ❖ Please let us know if you have any feedback! We look forward to seeing you at the volunteer appreciation event.