

INFORMATION ABOUT MEDIATION SERVICES

Since 1983, Community Mediation Services, Inc. (CMS) has provided the community with alternative methods of resolving disputes through the use of mediation and restorative justice. Juvenile cases have always been central to our work, and we continue to expand our work with youth and with juvenile offenders in schools, in the community and in the justice system.

CMS maintains an active pool of over one hundred qualified mediators from diverse backgrounds, sixty-eight of whom have training in restorative justice for juveniles.

INFORMATION

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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RESTORATIVE MEDIATION FOR JUVENILES



**Community
Mediation
Services, Inc.**

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

WHAT IS RESTORATIVE MEDIATION FOR JUVENILES?

Restorative Mediation is a process where those who are affected by the offense – the offender, the victim, and/or community members – come together to address the offense and repair the harm done to the extent possible. Participants meet in a neutral and safe setting with a qualified team of mediators. Community Mediation Services, Inc. (CMS) offers Restorative Mediation in addition to many other types of mediation.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF MEDIATION?

- To increase the voice of victims of offense
- To heal the effects of offense
- To increase the accountability and life skills of juveniles

LIMITS OF MEDIATION

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

WHY CHOOSE RESTORATIVE MEDIATION?

- Victims receive answers to the questions that seriously bother and sometimes even paralyze them.
- Offenders face the real human costs of their actions: for instance, in a burglary, learning what it means to have your privacy invaded.
- Restorative mediation is cost-effective; offenders contribute to the victim or community
- Research shows that youth offenders who meet their victim in mediation are 35 percent less likely to commit another offense.
- Focuses on repairing the harm done
- Victim given a chance to tell his or her story
- Offender given a role in the solution
- Victim, offender and community roles and needs are recognized
- Increases offenders integration into the community
- Makes win-win outcomes possible

WHEN IS RESTORATIVE MEDIATION APPROPRIATE?

CMS can mediate the following kinds of situations:

- Theft
- Harassment
- Fighting
- Threats
- Vandalism
- Property damage
- Runaways
- Truancy/Educational Neglect
- School conflict
- Disorderly conduct
- Curfew
- Inappropriate cyber activity

HOW DO I OPEN A CASE?

CMS receives referrals from law enforcement, from community agencies and from you. Mediations are voluntary and confidential. Appointments are arranged at your convenience: days, evenings or weekends. Most mediations are completed in less than two hours. Mediations are provided free of charge for juvenile offenses.