

## INFORMATION ABOUT MEDIATION SERVICES

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Community Mediation Services, Inc. was founded in 1983 as a private, non-profit organization. The program brings people together to resolve disputes in a constructive manner. The program is governed by community residents and operates with financial support from public and private sources.

Mediators at CMS are community volunteers with various backgrounds, interests, and occupations. Each has received state-certified 30 hour initial training as well as required continuing education each year (a minimum of 6 hours).

## INFORMATION

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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.

763.561.0033 (Office)

763.561.0266 (Fax)

staff@mediationprogram.com

www.CommunityMediationS.org

## PARENTING TIME EXPEDITING

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Community Mediation Services, Inc. (CMS), offers Parenting Time Expediting in addition to many other types of family mediation. CMS Parenting Time Expediting Services operate by appointment of the court. The session begins as a mediation, facilitating the party's efforts to reach agreement on their own. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement on parenting time issues, then the mediators, acting as expeditors, will make determinations based on their understanding of the court order, what they learned in the mediation and information they might gather following the session. CMS will provide copies of the determination to the parties within five (5) business days.

*"Very skilled, patient, empathetic mediators - they stayed neutral and respectful of our process, very generous with time."*

- Mediation Participant

## SHARED PARENTING MEDIATION

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**Community  
Mediation  
Services, Inc.**

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

## SHARED PARENTING MEDIATION

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Community Mediation Services, Inc. (CMS) offers Shared Parenting Mediation in addition to many other types of mediation. CMS can assist divorced or unmarried parents to resolve the types of concerns or disagreements that may arise after a relationship ends. CMS can handle the following kinds of disputes:

- **Property & Financial Asset Dispersal**
- **Parenting Time Access**  
Scheduling of parenting time  
Grandparent access time  
Transportation arrangements  
Telephone access time
- **Parenting Concerns**  
Child rearing methods  
Disciplinary Decisions  
Access to school and medical records  
Notice of School Conferences and Performances
- **Parenting Time Expediting**  
By appointment of the court, on its own authority or at the request of either party (more details on back).

## EXPLANATION OF MEDIATION

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Shared Parenting Mediation is a voluntary process that brings parents together in a safe and neutral setting with one or more mediators. The meeting is an informal discussion in which both participants are given time to describe their concerns. The mediators facilitate the discussion, ask questions, and write up any agreement the participants reach. The mediators are not judges and will not impose a solution. The agreement is the responsibility of the participants themselves. Because the agreement reflects decisions made by the participants, mediated agreements enjoy high rates of compliance.

## LIMITS OF MEDIATION

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CMS cannot provide mediation services where there is a history of domestic violence or child abuse.

CMS cannot alter a court order regarding issues of child custody or child support.

*"We should provide mechanisms that can produce an acceptable result in the shortest possible time, with the least possible expense and with a minimum of stress on the participants. That is what justice is all about."*

Warren E. Burger  
Former Chief Justice  
of the United States

## BENEFITS OF MEDIATION

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- Confidentiality  
Staff and Mediators are bound to confidentiality by law.
- Control over the solution  
You decide what is best for you.
- Closure  
Decisively resolve issues that have been persistent.
- Cost  
Fees are significantly less than typical lawyers' and for-profit mediators' fees. No one is denied service for inability to pay.
- Constructing Relationships  
Mediation provides a setting where participants can develop a workable co-parenting relationship where continued contact and communication with one another is necessary.
- Convenience  
Mediation sessions are scheduled at the participants' earliest convenience.