



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

November 12, 2018

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE ZIP

Dear NAME:

The mission of Northern Community Mediation (NCM) is to help people resolve conflicts in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties. As a part of fulfilling this commitment, NCM manages several specific programs, one of which is the School Attendance Mediation Program. The purpose of this program is to “identify students who are at risk of becoming truant, improve school attendance, and reduce school drop-out rates.”

The importance of regular attendance in school is supported by the facts surrounding truancy.

- Failure to graduate is associated with diminished earning potential in adulthood.
- High school dropouts earn only 65% of the median earnings.
- High school dropouts have only a 52% employment rate, compared to 71% for high school graduates.
- Boys are only slightly more likely to be sent to court for truancy than girls.
- Truancy is a particularly good predictor of middle school drug use, often being 4.5% more likely than regular school attenders to smoke marijuana.
- For every race and gender group, high school dropouts claim more in government-funded social services expenditures than high school graduates. The average dropout costs more than \$200,000 over the course of his or her lifetime.
- 41% of prison inmates and 31% of probationers 18 years and older have not graduated from high school or earned a GED, compared with 18% of the general population.

Therefore, it only stands to reason that being proactive rather than reactive to this problem is sensible. Consequently, the school districts in Charlevoix and Emmet counties work collaboratively with NCM to address this issue. By bringing students, parents and school personnel together with a neutral party—the mediator, solutions are brought forth to ensure that poor attendance is no longer a pattern of behavior.

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As of October 17 of this year, NCM had facilitated 74 school attendance mediations. In 72% of the cases, an agreement was reached, and of those cases, the agreement was upheld in 76% of the cases. In other words, the attendance of 51 of the students improved as a result of the School Attendance Mediation Program. This is a service that cannot disappear.

The cost to run the School Attendance Mediation Program is approximately \$150 per case. NCM, however, is unable to charge for this program. The schools are not in a financial position to pay for this program. Therefore, NCM provides this service at no cost to the schools because we believe strongly in the positive outcomes the program delivers.

Since NCM operates on limited funds and we rely on gifts from donors like you, we are asking you to consider a contribution to NCM to help defray the costs of this important, community program. Enclosed is an envelope for your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jane Millar".

Jane Millar, Ed.D.
Executive Director



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Because we believe in providing access to all in need of our services, these programs are offered at a low or no cost to the participants.

We rely on your donations to help defray the costs not covered by our fees and payments from the State, Charlevoix and Emmet Counties, and the local court systems.

Programs We Offer

American Veterans

All fees payable to NCM are waived for American Veterans.

Victim-Offender Reconciliation

By facing their victims and learning first-hand the effects of their crimes, offenders come to realize that they have hurt a real person.

First-Time Offender Shoplifting

Although the mediation process is similar to that of the VORP, by not charging the first-time offender with a crime, he/she is given a second chance.

Preventative Shoplifting

This fourth-grade presentation combines an age appropriate power point, coloring book and video to increase awareness of the consequences of shoplifting. This is a free service to the school districts.

Restorative Practices

This proactive approach in the schools focuses on working with the students to help them understand the consequences of and take responsibility for their actions.

School Attendance

This service helps school districts ensure that students are in school so that truancy and educational neglect do not become an issue.

Special Education

Whether it is for developing an Individual Educational Profile (IEP) or reassessing an existing IEP, parents or school personnel can request the use of mediation to help facilitate a neutral process.

Child Protection

The ultimate goal is to determine permanent placement for a child who has been victimized by abuse or neglect. This placement may or may not be with the biological parent(s).

Our Mission

To help people meaningfully resolve conflicts in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties

Types of Mediation

Family Services

- Divorce/Domestic Relations
- Parenting Time
- Custody
- Guardianship

Breach of Contract

- Landlord/Tenant
- Professional/Client
- Consumer/Merchant

Employer/Employee

Community Disputes

- Public Policy
- Ordinance/Statute

Neighborhood Issues

Real Estate

General Civil
