



# Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &  
Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

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### SAVE THE DATE

On Friday, October 14 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Anne Bachle Fifer will conduct a SCAO approved workshop entitled "Ten Ways Mediators Could Get Sued." This training is open to mediators, attorneys, and the general public.

Although there is a charge of \$150 to participate, NCM individuals who meet at least one of the following criteria between the dates of September 1, 2004 and September 1, 2005 are exempt from the fee:

- Observed 6 mediations
- Observed 5 hours of mediation
- Conducted 8 mediations
- Conducted 8 hours of mediation
- Served on the Board of Directors

You will receive a separate e-mail attachment of the flyer for the training. You will also receive the flyer in the mail. I encourage all of you to participate in this opportunity.

### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

You may want to consider the following two ideas when writing your agreements for mediation.

First, begin the agreement with wording such as "Because we want to maintain a positive relationship...."

Another idea is to have one of the mediators go into a separate room to write the proposed agreement. Such a practice allows that mediator to focus on the writing of the agreement without distraction from general conversation. The other mediator should remain in the room with the participants. This process is particularly valuable in writing more complex agreements.

### REMINDER

When your mediation is over, we would appreciate it if you would straighten the room before leaving. Thanks in advance for doing so.

### SAVE ANOTHER DATE

On Thursday, September 15 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, there will be a special training for mediators who are divorced and/or post-judgment trained. The purpose of this workshop will be to introduce the books *Parents are Forever* and *Divorced but Still My Parents*. As a result of a grant from the Revenue Sharing Board, we have obtained numerous copies of these books. *Parents are Forever* will be given to mediation participants who have children and are getting divorced. Copies of *Divorced but Still My Parents* will be given to their children. The training will explain how the books will be incorporated into the mediation process.

### YOUR OPINIONS

As you are aware, we have been trying to be more efficient in scheduling mediations by using e-mail. At this stage of the game, we would like your opinion on how well this process is working. Therefore, would you call Jane Millar if you have any suggestions, recommendations or comments in general? Your input would be greatly appreciated.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In Charlevoix, Adolph Cwik, Bob Drebenstedt and Bruce Herbert, and in Petoskey, Lou Fantini, Dick Hendrian, June Jackson, and Diana Souza cover small claims court. They are real troopers. By rotating among themselves, they make certain that there are mediators present every week to cover the small claims cases. If any of you would be interested in volunteering to help with small claims, call Jane at NCM. Your commitment does not have to be on a weekly basis. It could be as a substitute or as a once-a-month volunteer.

### GOOD NEWS

Board member Ray Kiogima is progressing well after his minor setback. That is fantastic news!

### ANOTHER REMINDER

A contribution to Northern Community Mediation is always welcomed.