



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

March 2004
Vol. 1 No. 3

PROCEDURAL CHANGES

You will find two stamps in the mediation rooms or in your packets from now on. When an agreement is reached, the original form should be signed and stamped "Original." This form should be returned to Pat Dull either directly or in the packet. If copies are made, they should be stamped with "Counter Copy Original." The parties can keep these for their records.

You will be noticing that some of the forms for the agreements have changed. We are doing this to create greater consistency, as well as to cut down on paper work for the courts. Although the forms are self-explanatory, do not hesitate to contact Karen Tank if you have any questions.

GOOD NEWS! BAD NEWS!

GOOD NEWS: We are comfortably settled in our new location in Petoskey.

BAD NEWS: We are still paying rent for our Charlevoix office.

GOOD NEWS: We have an anonymous donor who is covering the Charlevoix rent until we find a sub leaser.

BAD NEWS: We have not found someone who is interested in subleasing the Charlevoix office.

If you know of anyone who would like office space with a great location in Charlevoix, let us know.

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

Those of you who specialize in mediations relating to families and children, domestic relations, child custody, and parenting time might be interested in joining the Michigan Association of Court Mediators (MACM). For more information, contact Jane.

WAY TO GO KEN

Board member Ken Winter will be going to South Africa this month. He has been invited to participate in an international professional and cultural program. He is one of 12 of journalists and communication educator delegates to visit Johannesburg and Cape Town.

MEDIATOR MEETING

On Tuesday, March 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., there will be a meeting for all mediators at the NCM office. Some of the topics to be covered are policies and procedures, mentoring program and the Mediator Facilitation Committee. A light dinner will be served.

FEES FOR SERVICE

The Board of Directors has approved charging minimal fees for our services. For those cases that do not come through the courts, an administrative fee will be charged as described below:

- Breach of contract, consumer/merchant, landlord/tenant, neighborhood disputes \$30.00
- Divorce and domestic relations \$40.00
- Employer/employee, professional/client, property/real estate \$50.00

In all cases, if someone is unable to afford the fee, it will be waived.

As has been the protocol in the past, cases that are referred or ordered through the court will not be subject to these fees. We will, however, request a donation.

As mediators, your role in the process will be quite simple. There will be envelopes on the windowsills of the mediation rooms. All we ask you to do is draw attention to them by saying "If you have not already paid your fee or made a donation, envelopes are available on the windowsill." One more request. We would appreciate your sharing any feedback from our clients regarding our fee structure.

THINKING OF YOU

- Pat Dull who had two family deaths within a day of each other.
- June Jackson whose son is in Iraq.
- Pam Ovshinsky whose parents are ill.

RIBBON CUTTING

On February 11, ambassadors from the Petoskey Chamber celebrated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for NCM. A picture of the event appeared in the 2/20 Super Shopper.