



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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LOCATIONS

What used to be the mediator workroom is now being used as an office by the Peace and Justice Committee of St. Francis. Therefore, the mediator workroom has been changed to the room next door to the last room down the hallway. It should be obvious since it houses a computer, monitor, printer, copy machine, shredder, and necessary documents for the mediations.

You should also be aware of the fact that we do have first aid supplies. They are located in the medicine cabinet in the storage room. That room is next to the break room, which is the newly, brightly-painted room at the opposite end of the hallway from the mediator workroom.

With all of these rooms and all of the names identifying them, we may have to draw a map so that everyone can find her/his way around.

MEDIATION REMINDERS

In our attempts to be friendly, we sometimes forget that we should not talk with any of the parties involved in mediation unless all parties are present. I realize that is difficult because not everyone arrives at the same time. My suggestion would be to take the participants as they arrive to the room in which the mediation is to be held. As the mediators, you can wait at the top of the stairs or in another room.

Another mediation tip is to try to settle one issue at a time. Although this is not always possible, try to keep the participants focused so that the issues do not become muddled.

There is one more reminder. It seems that there is some confusion as to the role of attorneys in mediation. The policy of Northern Community Mediation is to welcome attorneys. Their knowledge and expertise can provide a valuable resource. The only stipulation relating to attorneys in mediation is that they abide by the same protocol as all other participants. In other words, they can state their positions and are expected to listen to the viewpoints of the other parties. Call me if you have any questions relating to this matter.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

It is not too late to make your reservation for Wednesday, May 19 when Chief Justice Maura Corrigan will be the guest speaker at a dinner in celebration of Northern Community Mediation's tenth anniversary. There will be a social hour at 6:00, followed by dinner at 7:00, after which Chief Justice Corrigan will address the group. A combination entrée of sirloin and salmon will be served in the Rose Room at the Perry Hotel in Petoskey. Or, you can select a vegetarian entrée. A cash bar will be available. The cost is \$40 per person. For reservations, send your check payable to NCM to the attention of Pat Dull.

GOLF OPPORTUNITY

For those of you who are golfers, I have a win-win offering for you. For every 18 holes you play at Chestnut Valley, they will donate \$10.00 to United Way. Five dollars of this will be given to Northern Community Mediation if you have one of our coupons. For nine holes, United Way will receive \$5.00, \$2.50 of which will go to us. Just be certain that you get the coupons from us before you go out there. And, you are welcome to have as many as you will use. Get them for your family and friends.

WELCOME

We have another new mediator in our ranks. Jane Gootee, who is an attorney, has relocated to northern Michigan—Charlevoix to be precise. She is going to volunteer some of her time mediating for Northern Community Mediation. Be certain to seek her out. She has an interesting background. In fact, she has argued a case before the Supreme Court of the United States.

FORTY-HOUR TRAINING

If you know of anyone who is interested in being trained as a mediator, let her/him know about our forty-hour training that is coming up in June.

SNOWBIRDS

It should not be long before those of you who flee northern Michigan winters will be returning Welcome back!