



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

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### OUR NEW CASE MANAGER



Karen Cole has recently joined the Northern Community Mediation (NCM) staff. She has been a mediator for NCM for over ten years. In 2006, she was the recipient of the Rookie Mediator of the Year Award, and in 2012, she received the Veteran Mediator of the Year Award. As a Case Manager, she is responsible for cases involving divorce, guardianship, victim-offender reconciliation, child protection, and parenting time.

Karen brings with her a broad range of experience in teaching, social work, and the retail community. She is a native of Charlevoix. She graduated from Central Michigan University with a degree in education and has done extensive graduate work in the field of education.

### YOU WILL BE MISSED

Mediator Scott Kingdon will no longer be mediating for NCM because his family and he are moving to Florida. Interesting! Just in time for winter.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“There is only one way to happiness and that is to cease worrying about things which are beyond the power of our will?” Epictetus

### USELESS FACT

Happiness has a fragrance. Clinical experiments on body odor have proved your scent changes between when you are stressed or happy.

### VORP WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, August 18 from 4:00pm to 5:30pm, there was a Victim-Offender, Reconciliation Program workshop. Eleven mediators participated in this seminar. All of us at NCM, especially Karen, are delighted to have more mediators who are now trained in this specialized type of mediation.

### ANOTHER TRAINING

Set aside Tuesday, September 29 from 8:30am to 12:30pm. That is when the Advanced Mediator Training relating to Agreement Writing will take place. There are certain issues that we need to address so that agreements do not get thrown out by the courts. So, plan to attend if at all possible. The response so far has been overwhelming. Consequently, we have decided to accept 40 participants rather than limiting it to 30. For further information and registration, go to <http://www.northernmediation.org/local-83/> on the NCM website.

### REMINDERS

1. Everyone at the mediation table should sign the Consent to Mediate. This includes the mediators.
2. Only the parties involved in the agreement should sign the Agreement. Mediators should not sign the Agreement.
3. Even if there is not a full agreement, but the parties agree to anything, be certain to put that in writing. The reason for this is that NCM is evaluated by the state on the percentage of agreements and partial agreements reached. Unless there is something in writing, NCM cannot state that an agreement or partial agreement has been reached. This includes anything, no matter how minor, to which the parties agree.
4. When writing an agreement that involves a judgment or dismissal, be certain to include who will deliver that document to the court.
5. In the opening statement, in certain circumstances it would not be a bad idea to state that although showing up for mediation meets the court requirements, we would hope that everyone would mediate in good faith.
6. Refrain from asking if the parties at the table have ever participated in mediation previously.