



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

July 13, 2017

Serving Charlevoix
and Emmet Counties

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. This process often involves more than merely resolving a disagreement. Often, the focus of mediation becomes a matter of restoring relationships.

A perfect example of this is a case that involved two sisters. From the time they were little girls, the older sister Mary bossed around her younger sister Janet. According to Janet, Mary was critical of everything that she did: how she talked; the clothes she wore; the people she befriended; her looks, and the list went on. On the other hand, Mary believed that Janet needed someone to make her become more responsible. Mary substantiated her position by citing the fact that Janet at age 55 was still living with their parents.

Janet had heard about the reputation of NCM in helping people with problems like hers. Hence, at wits end, Janet contacted us. After much persuasion, Mary begrudgingly agreed to come to mediation. On the day of the mediation, both sisters entered with tightened lips, arms crossed across their bodies, and eyes shooting daggers at each other. There were no friendly greetings. Hostility reigned in the room.

Following five hours of mediation filled with raw emotions of anger, tears, regret, sorrow, frustration, and resentment, Mary and Janet realized that the one thing they both wanted was to be friendly towards one another. They wanted to be sisters. Using this common goal, our mediators were able to assist them so that they could let go of their pent-up negative feelings towards one another and begin working towards rebuilding their relationship.

Mary and Janet left the mediation exhausted. They had worked hard, but when they departed they had smiles on their faces, were holding hands and had decided to go see their parents to share the good news with them. That was nine months ago. Two weeks ago, Janet stopped by the NCM office to let the Case Manager know that her sister and she were still getting along and that their sisterhood could not be stronger. She also came with a donation because as she said, "At the time, I really could not afford the minimal fee you charge, but I have saved so that I could give you \$50 and say thank-you."

In order to provide mediation services, NCM receives funding from three basis sources. The State of Michigan provides $\frac{1}{4}$ of the funding, the local counties and courts provide $\frac{1}{2}$ of the funding, and NCM is responsible for raising the other $\frac{1}{4}$ to meet its budget. It does so through charging minimal fees, fund raising, conducting trainings and workshops, and donations.

Please, consider a donation to Northern Community Mediation so that the doors will always be open to anyone and so that NCM can continue to provide quality services to the citizens of Charlevoix and Emmet Counties. NCM is a 501 (C) (3), non-profit organization.

Sincerely

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