



# Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

November 13, 2023

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE ZIP

Dear NAME:

I often get asked, "How much does it actually cost Northern Community Mediation (NCM) to handle a case?" I wish I could give a simple answer, but I cannot because it depends upon the type of case. For example, a child protection case requires a greater amount of time than a small claims case. Another question that I am often asked is, "Does the fee NCM charges cover the cost of a case?" The fee that is charged does not even come close to covering the cost. Additionally, the fee is often waived and for many types of cases, no fee is charged at all.

As an example, let's take child-centered cases for which there is no charge.

- The average School Attendance Mediation case costs NCM \$350. In 80% of those cases mediated, the school attendance improves or partially improves. What a difference this can make in the education of the child!
- A Child Protection Mediation cases costs NCM \$847. How can a price even be placed upon the welfare of a child?
- The Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program brings victims together with their youthful offenders not only to establish restitution, but also to help the youthful offender understand the impact of and take responsibility for his/her actions. The average cost of this type of case to NCM is \$678. A small price to pay for the future of that youthful offender.

NCM does charge a minimal fee for domestic-related cases. These fees, however, do not cover the actual costs.

- An average, mediated divorce case costs NCM \$629. Although each party is charged \$100, NCM still has to cover the additional \$429.
- Divorce cases in which children are involved costs NCM \$670. Subtracting the fee of \$125 per person, the cost to NCM is \$420.
- The average cost for a parenting time case is \$533. Subtracting the fee of \$50 per person from that cost, the expense to NCM is \$433.
- General domestic cases cost NCM \$658. Minus the \$100 per person fee, the cost to NCM is \$458.

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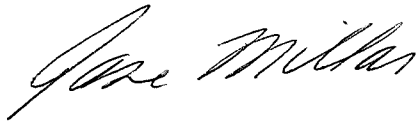
The only types of cases that NCM cannot mediate are those of a criminal nature. All other issues are appropriate to bring to the mediation table. The citations above are merely examples of the issues that our case managers and mediators address on a daily basis. Other dispute types include breach of contract, landlord/tenant, real estate, guardianship/conservatorship/custody, will & trusts, property (both real and personal), employment, public policy, consumer/merchant, and professional/client.

Enclosed is a donation envelope. Please, give consideration to making a donation in support of the work that NCM provides for our community. Perhaps, one of the types of cases described above is of interest to you. If so, designate on the enclosed envelope which program you want to support with your donation. If you prefer, you can make your donation of a general nature.

I want to thank you for the time you have taken to read this letter. I hope that you will give serious consideration to making a contribution to NCM so that we can continue to provide affordable mediation services to the citizens of Charlevoix and Emmet Counties.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Millar".

Jane Millar, Ed.D.  
Executive Director