



DOMESTIC MEDIATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Wayne County Dispute Resolution Center (aka Wayne Mediation Center) offers a variety of opportunities for domestic mediators to gain experience and volunteer. We have programs at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center and the Penobscot Building in Detroit as well as at our offices in Dearborn. Each of these programs is described below.

Regardless of the program(s) you choose to participate in, someone from Wayne Mediation Center will be present and allow you to observe and be observed for as long as it takes you to become skilled enough to effectively handle mediations on your own. In addition, depending upon your interest and skill levels, you may be paired to co-mediate cases in these programs.

OPPORTUNITIES AT OUR DEARBORN OFFICE:

The primary domestic mediation opportunities at our office are cases referred by the Department of Human Resources following a child neglect or abuse complaint that the caseworker determines to arise solely from a conflict between the parents. We handle three or four of these cases a month and generally schedule them at 10:00 AM or 2:00 PM with a week or two notice. The focus of these cases is generally to attempt to create a communication and parenting plan. They generally take two to four hours.

We also less regularly handle divorce mediations at our office. These mediations usually are focused upon custody and parenting time issues, but sometimes also involve real estate, pensions and debt. These cases also generally go for two to four hours, and sometimes involve two sessions to complete.

COURT /FOC/FAME PROGRAMS:

In Court Mediation Project: This program takes place at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center (CAYMC) every Tuesday beginning at 9:00 A.M. Cases are scheduled by the Family Court Judges and distributed in room 1911 on the 19th floor. The cases usually are full divorces (with or without children), involving parenting time issues or any other issue related to a divorce. Occasionally, one or more parties may have an attorney participate.

These mediations generally take anywhere from one hour up to four hours to complete, and the parties may be scheduled for a follow up session with approval. Most judges will put any cases settled on the record that same day.

Parenting Time Mediation Project: This generally takes place every day on the 11th floor of the Penobscot Building. Andra Anderson staffs this project. Referee Anita Scott-Meisel presides in the courtroom and mediations are scheduled at 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30 for cases that deal with parenting

time disputes. The mediations generally must be completed in an hour and a half. Sometimes, the mediation cannot go forward due to domestic violence, or one of the parties not showing or obtaining a lawyer. If a settlement is reached, it is typed up and put on the record by the parties in front of the referee.

De Novo Establishment Docket Appeal Project: This project takes place every Tuesday morning beginning at 8:30 in Presiding Judge McCarthy's courtroom on the 11th floor of the Penobscot Building. These are cases involving appeals from Referees' recommendations after child support and parenting time plans are first established between never married parents. These cases generally last an hour to an hour and a half, and several can be mediated in a morning by a mediator.

VOLUNTEER PROCESS:

All volunteers are required to have a background check (DHS Registry takes about a week) and fill out our volunteer contract and confidentiality agreement (All attached). In addition, we make a file on each volunteer that needs a copy of your mediation training certificates.

At the completion of a case, a short form for our records (this will be provided to you) needs to be filled out and signed. This will also allow you to be refunded for your parking (up to \$10) and mileage.

SCHEDULING:

Our Director of Case Management, Naomi Davis, will email you with opportunities to mediate in our office whenever they arise. For our Court programs, let Bern Dempsey know of any dates you would be willing to volunteer. WMC will send out regular reminders as well, and will contact you to update you on any developments and to schedule advanced training sessions to share strategies and experiences.

Please feel free to contact Bern Dempsey with any questions you have (313 561-3500, ext 311, or bdempsey@mediation-wayne.org.)