



## **Help Change the Culture of Conflict in Wayne County - Become A Volunteer Mediator!**

The stress and consequences of conflict take a terrible toll on many individuals and families in Wayne County. While many resort to the legal system, the time and costs can be severe and never-ending for those involved-both financially and emotionally.

As a community based nonprofit organization, Wayne County Dispute Resolution Center (WCDRC), also known as the Wayne Mediation Center, empowers individuals and families in Wayne County to peacefully resolve their conflicts efficiently and effectively. Each year, WCDRC's staff and volunteers mediate or facilitate approximately 1,500 conflicts, with more than 60% leading to immediate resolution. Many more are assisted down a path toward eventual resolution.

WCDRC's mission is to change the culture of conflict resolution in Wayne County. To do this, WCDRC relies upon the donation of time by individuals interested in impacting the lives of families and individuals in conflict in conflict - the overwhelming majority of whom have Limited financial means.

WCDRC mediates 100% of cases via Zoom, with the option of meeting in person at the Dearborn office. The key to WCDRC's success is offering volunteer mediators from diverse backgrounds and life experiences.

To become a WCDRC volunteer mediator, the process starts with an in person meeting with a WCDRC staff member to ensure a good fit. The next step is to complete a state approved 40 hour training session that we offer several times a year. Individuals may choose initially to take the training that qualifies them to mediate all "general civil" matters, such as contract or neighbor disputes, or they may elect to take the training that qualifies them to handle domestic matters, such as divorce and parenting time. Some of our mediators take both of these trainings, along with additional training classes in Special Education, Truancy Prevention, Behavioral Health, Agriculture, or Restorative Practices.

### **GENERAL CIVIL MEDIATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The types of general civil cases WCDRC mediates include neighbor disputes, estate and guardianship disagreements, school truancy issues, breach of contract, consumer Disputes and civil rights complaints.

## **DOMESTIC MEDIATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The majority of these programs specifically focus upon parenting time disputes, and several involve full divorces that may involve pensions, real estate, personal property or spousal support.

Learning to communicate effectively and resolve conflict is extremely rewarding. Mediations generally require a two hour commitment. Some individuals volunteer once a month, while others volunteer several times a week. To ensure success, all of our new mediators attend two cases that they observe, then mediators co-mediate with experienced mediators as often as they wish or prefer. Finally, you'll have supervised mediation. If successful, you can then mediate on your own. If you are an attorney, mediating for us counts as pro bono credit. In addition, WCDRC notifies you of all training or advanced training opportunities we find.

Please contact Sue Wilson, Executive Director, at [swilson@wcdrc.org](mailto:swilson@wcdrc.org) or call 313-561-3500 (option 6) or visit our website at <https://wcdrc.org> if you are interested in additional information.