

## How Does the Community Benefit?

Mediation saves the court both valuable time and money thus also saving the tax payers money. Participants can work together toward a solution and are more likely to follow through with a plan they have created than one mandated by the court.

CMS strives to assist people in finding a peaceful solution to their conflict and thus preserving relationships.

### Community Mediation Services

100 N. Main Street Room 115  
Clinton, TN 37716  
865-463-6888  
865-457-7208 Fax

[www.peacefulresolution.org](http://www.peacefulresolution.org)



## .... Our Supporters Include ....



State of TN

Anderson County Gov.

Local Churches

Individuals

Community Mediation Services is a non-profit organization serving Anderson County.



Volunteer training is offered quarterly. For information on becoming a volunteer mediator please call **865-463-6888.**

*Donations gladly accepted!  
Honorariums and Memorials available!*



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## What Is Mediation?



### What Is Mediation?

Mediation is the confidential process of settling differences between 2 or more people using a neutral third party (the mediator) to guide the way. Mediators do not take sides. Each participant is given an equal chance to state his or her point of view in a safe and private setting. Mediation is voluntary. Unlike the proceedings before a judge where there usually appears to be a winner and a loser, mediation is about finding a solution that works for all parties.

### Who Are Our Mediators?

Our mediators are community volunteers who have completed at least 28 hours of classroom training and an apprenticeship with an experienced mediator. Most are still working full-time and have families but see the value of making a difference in our community through serving as a volunteer mediator. We have a diverse mediator pool and are always looking for non-judgmental, caring people that want to participate in training to become a mediator.



### Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP)

VORP is a voluntary, confidential process in which victims and offenders of non-violent crimes have the opportunity to meet face to face in the presence of a trained volunteer mediator to discuss the crime, its effect, and ways to help restore the loss. VORP seeks to broaden the meaning of restoration beyond replacement of damaged or stolen property by contributing to the restoration of the participants' lives.

Independent research studies by the University of Tennessee concluded that juvenile offenders who participate in VORP are half as likely to commit future crimes as juvenile offenders who do not participate.

VORP gives victims the chance to ask questions, explain how they were affected, receive compensation for their loss, and to find closure. Offenders have the opportunity to realize how a person has been hurt by the crime, to apologize directly to the victim, and to do what can be done to make things right again.



### Teen and Parent Mediation (TPM)

TPM helps families resolve conflicts over issues such as truancy, school performance, friends, curfew, and chores in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Trained volunteer mediators help parents and teens voice their concerns openly and develop agreements for daily living that everyone agrees are fair and realistic.

TPM delegates responsibility for problem solving equally to all participants and encourages cooperation, trust, and joint decision-making. Families learn respectful communication skills and start to establish appropriate ways of settling family differences in the future. TPM offers help and hope for families in conflict. TPM recognizes parental authority, while giving teens a voice.

### Visitation Mediation

Visitation Mediation is a program that usually involves never married parents who are no longer living together. Parties meet together with volunteer mediators to decide issues concerning child visitation and create a parenting plan. Sometimes grandparents or other relatives have been given custody of the child and need to work out a visitation plan so the parent can maintain a relationship with the child. Cases are resolved by the parties in a respectful and confidential manner rather than having the courts decide for them.

