

## What Is Mediation?

Mediation is a method of problem solving which enables individuals or groups in conflict the opportunity to seek a mutually agreeable resolution with the assistance of a neutral third-party mediator.

Mediators are not judges. They make no decisions for the parties. A mediator helps parties realize and describe their needs, clarify issues, and explore solutions. The purpose of mediation is to help parties find a solution that will work for each of them.

Nebraska's ODR-approved mediation centers primarily use an interest-based facilitative mediation process.

## What Types of Disputes Can be Mediated?

- Custody, visitation, parenting plans
- Family and juvenile matters
- Educational conflicts
- Employer and employee disputes
- Business and consumer matters
- Landlord and tenant conflicts
- Neighbor and community disputes
- Organizational conflicts
- Employment First disputes
- Child welfare matters
- Environmental issues
- Restorative justice / victim-offender
- Other types of private and public conflicts

## What Are the Benefits of Mediation?

- Parties keep control over the outcome of their own problem.
- Feelings and facts are considered with the help of an unbiased mediator.
- Interest-based mediation promotes improved professional and personal relationships through facilitated communication and constructive problem-solving.
- Issues can be settled promptly. A session is scheduled as soon as all parties agree to come to the table. A typical session lasts about two hours.
- Mediation is cost-effective. Contact a mediation center for more information.
- Mediation is private and confidential.
- Mediation is flexible. Attorneys, advocates, and others may participate in the sessions.



## How Does it Work?

An individual may request mediation by contacting a mediation center. Referrals may also be made by friends, courts, attorneys, social services, and others. After the parties agree to mediate, the time and place convenient for all is arranged by the mediation center. Mediations can take place anywhere in the state. No one is denied services based upon an inability to pay.



## What Happens After Mediation?

- If an agreement or resolution is reached, it may either be oral or written and may serve as a contract between the parties.
- If the dispute is currently pending in court or in an administrative process, the agreement may be submitted for court or agency approval.
- Parties may decide to meet at a future date to ensure follow through on the resolution.
- If no agreement is reached, parties have not waived any of their rights and may proceed with other methods of resolving the issue.

## Nebraska's Regional ODR-Approved Mediation Centers

Contact the center listed below that serves your county to schedule mediation at the location most convenient for you.

**Central Mediation Center, Kearney**  
(308) 237-4692 or (800) 203-3452  
[info@centralmediationcenter.com](mailto:info@centralmediationcenter.com)

\* Adams, Blaine, Buffalo, Chase, Clay, Custer, Dawson, Dundy, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Howard, Kearney, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Merrick, Nuckolls, Perkins, Phelps, Red Willow, Sherman, Thomas, Valley, Webster, Wheeler

**Concord Mediation Center, Omaha**  
(402) 345-1131  
[ctierney@concord-center.com](mailto:ctierney@concord-center.com)

\* Douglas and Sarpy

**Mediation West, Scottsbluff**  
(308) 635-2002 or (800) 967-2115  
[info@mediationwest.org](mailto:info@mediationwest.org)

\* Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Hooker, Keith, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux

**The Mediation Center, Lincoln**  
(402) 441-5740  
[info@themediationcenter.org](mailto:info@themediationcenter.org)

\* Lancaster

**Nebraska Justice Center, Fremont**  
(866) 846-5576 or (402) 753-9415  
[jmarhof@qwestoffice.net](mailto:jmarhof@qwestoffice.net)

\* Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Brown, Burt, Cedar, Cherry, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Madison, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Rock, Stanton, Thurston, Washington, Wayne

**The Resolution Center, Beatrice**  
(402) 223-6061 or (800) 837-7826  
[TRC@bvca.net](mailto:TRC@bvca.net)

\* Butler, Cass, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, Seward, Thayer, York

\*Counties served by the mediation center

## ODR-Approved Mediation in Nebraska

In 1991 the Nebraska Legislature passed the Nebraska Dispute Resolution Act, NRS Section 25-2901, et seq. to promote and develop the practice and use of mediation in Nebraska. The Act created the Office of Dispute Resolution in the Administrative Office of the Courts/Probation to oversee and support the development of the mediation center system. Each of the six regional non-profit mediation centers is approved by and receives an annual grant from the Office of Dispute Resolution. A state Office of Dispute Resolution Advisory Council comprised of representatives from diverse backgrounds, including the judiciary, lawyers, faith-based community, mental health, education, social services, and others advises the Office.

For information about mediation training, consensus building, and facilitation resources, please contact an ODR-approved community mediation center, the Office of Dispute Resolution, or go to the websites listed below.



### Office of Dispute Resolution

Nebraska State Capitol, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor

P.O. Box 98910

Lincoln, NE 68509

Phone: 402-471-2766 / Fax: 402-471-3071

[debora.brownyard@nebraska.gov](mailto:debora.brownyard@nebraska.gov)

[www.supremecourt.ne.gov/mediation](http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov/mediation)

NMA Mediation Training Information:

Phone: (402) 781-2011 / 877-342-2004

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

*For persons with disabilities, this brochure will be made available in other formats upon request. Call the Office of the State Court Administrator (402) 471-3730.*

## Nebraska ODR-Approved Mediation Centers



***Another way to  
solve problems and to  
resolve conflicts for  
citizens, courts, and  
communities.***

