

County Mediation Matters

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Four short words sum up what has lifted most successful individuals above the crowd: a little bit more. They did all that was expected of them and a little bit more.

-A. Lou Vickery

"A great experience. I think this is a great program."

"There should be free attorneys for both parties."

"This was very helpful!! More people ought to consider mediation!!"

"Thank you for your thoroughness and attention to detail."

"Mediation is fair. The law isn't."

"It worked."

Mediator Re-certification

Many of you are coming up for re-certification during the next few months. Remember, if you are an active volunteer mediator, the program will pay the \$15 county mediator renewal fee. Mediators must complete and submit their own paperwork with the \$15 fee. Provide Janet with copies of your renewal application and check made payable to the State of Florida, and she will process a reimbursement request.

May Stats

Volunteers mediated 52 cases in Alachua County in May and settled seventy percent. The outcome is pending in six cases. Six of eleven cases were settled in the neighboring counties. Circuit-wide, the year-to-date settlement rate is 61 percent.

11th Annual DRC Conference

If you are planning to attend the Eleventh Annual DRC Conference and/or the Third Annual County Mediation Summit in Orlando on August 22nd, **now** is the time to make your hotel reservation. Contact the Rosen Plaza Hotel at (800) 627-8258 and request the Dispute Resolution Center group rate of \$85 per night. Remember, if you are eligible for a stipend, it may be used to offset costs for attending the conference. **Pre-authorization is required.**

Courtroom Reminders

Please observe the following rules of decorum for Court:

Do not be late. If you must be late, wait until the judge finishes the opening remarks before entering the courtroom.

If you are late, wait until after the docket is over or until you get assigned a case to have your parking ticket validated.

Remember that your voice carries. Minimize conversation with litigants and each other while in the courtroom.

Be aware of your facial expressions. They are seen by everyone.

Comments From Mediation Surveys

We LOVE reading the comments on the Mediation Survey forms! And here's why...

"He was a great mediator! Problem solved."

"Mediator was excellent in communication and being impartial. A+!"

"Much easier to talk with mediator in her or his office rather than speak in a courtroom full of people."

Calendar

June 21 - No small claims pre-trials

July 4 - Courthouse closed

July 5 - YES!! There will be court.

July 12 - No small claims pre-trials

August 22 - County Mediation Summit in Orlando

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If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in county mediation proceedings you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator's Office by phone at (352) 337-6237 or in person or in writing at 201 E. University Ave, Gainesville FL 32601 within 2 working days of your receipt of this newsletter; if you are hearing impaired, call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (800) 955-8770.

Eighth Judicial Circuit County Mediation Program Results

May 2002

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	52	32	70%	6	0
Baker	1	1	100%	0	0
Bradford	4	3	75%	0	0
Gilchrist	0	0	NA	0	0
Levy	4	1	25%	0	0
Union	2	1	50%	0	0
Total	63	38	67%	6	0

2002 Year-To-Date

January through May

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	289	171	62%	14	5
Baker	8	4	57%	1	0
Bradford	11	7	70%	1	0
Gilchrist	1	1	100%	0	0
Levy	22	10	48%	1	0
Union	8	4	50%	0	0
Total	339	197	61%	17	5

Note: Percent written agreements does not include continued cases that are pending.