

County Mediation Matters

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If you spend more time asking appropriate questions rather than giving answers or opinions, your listening skills will increase.

-Brian Koslow

All Points Bulletin

Our CME audio tape entitled "Communications 101 - Beyond the Basics" has gone missing. If anyone has or knows the whereabouts of this tape, please let Janet know.

Mediator Scheduling

Please try to keep the following in mind regarding volunteer schedules and case assignments.

We schedule volunteers at the dates and times that they request. We leave scheduling decisions entirely up to each mediator because each individual knows what works best for them. We often have more mediators scheduled for 9 o'clock than we have cases referred to mediation. Nine o'clock mediators who did not get a case at 9 o'clock have priority on the 10 o'clock docket. If you ask to be scheduled at 10 o'clock, you will be assigned a case after everyone who has been waiting since 9 o'clock has gotten a case. In order to be fair, we try very hard to ensure that the same 9 a.m. mediators don't have to wait until 10 o'clock week after week. The downside to coming at 9 is that you may not get a case until 10. The downside of coming at 10 is that you are at the end of the rotation list.

Mediator schedules are mailed out on the last Thursday of the month. This is why we ask that you tell us when you want to mediate no later than the last Wednesday of the

month. You will not receive a written schedule if you make your scheduling request after the schedules have been sent. If you don't receive a schedule in the mail, it means that either we did not receive a schedule request from you or your request was received after schedules were mailed.

February Stats

Volunteers mediated 46 cases in Alachua County in February and settled 76 percent. The outcome is pending in one case. In the neighboring counties, three of five mediations resulted in agreements.

CME Luncheon

The next CME Luncheon will be on April 11 in the Grand Jury Room on a topic yet to be determined. If anyone has any issues they would like to discuss, please let Janet or Robin know, and we will put them on the agenda.

Rotation List Refresher

Mediators who are active volunteers with the small claims program are eligible to have their name on the County Mediation Rotation List and are automatically included if they checked the box for availability in their certification or renewal application.

The Rotation List is sent to parties in county cases and landlord-tenant cases that have been ordered to

mediation. Parties who choose to select a mediator from this list will contact the mediator directly, and it is then up to the mediator and the parties to schedule the time and place for the mediation.

If parties cannot agree on a mediator or do not want to select a mediator, the Court will appoint one from the Rotation List. This happens very infrequently.

Mediators selected from the list or appointed on rotation are paid by the parties in accordance with the guidelines in the Administrative Order governing county mediation. The order is available online at www.circuit8.org/ao/index.html or see Janet for a copy. Collection of fees is the responsibility of the mediator.

Important Dates

March 21 - CME Luncheon
April 11 - CME Luncheon
April 18 - Court Holiday, No Court
May 16 - No Court

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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

February 2003

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	46	34	76%	1	0
Baker	0	0	NA	0	0
Bradford	1	0	0%	0	0
Gilchrist	0	0	NA	0	0
Levy	4	3	75%	0	0
Union	0	0	NA	0	0
Total	51	37	74%	4	0

2003 Year-To-Date

January through February

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	114	78	70%	3	0
Baker	1	1	100%	0	0
Bradford	1	0	0%	0	0
Gilchrist	1	1	100%	0	0
Levy	9	4	44%	0	0
Union	0	0	NA	0	0
Total	126	84	68%	3	5

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