

County Mediation Matters

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It is much harder to ask the right question than it is to find the right answer to the wrong question.

*-E. E. Morison (1909 - 1995)
Historian and Educator*

Peer Observation and Information Exchange

Starting this year all certified volunteer mediators will be required to observe another certified mediator at least one time during every calendar year and be observed at least one time each calendar year. Watching how someone else might handle a particular situation is a great opportunity for each of us to expand on and improve our own mediation skills. Also, if the observer and the mediator discuss the mediation afterwards, then the observer will receive CME credit for both the observation and the discussion time, and the mediator can claim CME credit for the discussion time. If there is no discussion, then neither the observer nor the mediator can claim any CME credit. CME hours obtained in this manner count as attendance at a live seminar. They are *not* considered mentoring so are not subject to the 2-hour limit on CME obtained by mentoring. This type of observation and discussion/information exchange is consistent with standard operating procedure in many other programs throughout the state.

April Stats

Volunteers mediated 71 cases in Alachua County in April and settled fifty-eight percent. The outcome is pending in nine cases. Five of nine

cases were settled in the neighboring counties. Circuit-wide, the year-to-date settlement rate is 60 percent.

Audio Tapes

For those of you looking for extra ethics CME credits, we just purchased the audio tape and handouts from the session "Ethics In County Mediation" with Sharon Press from the 2001 County Mediation Summit. Listening to the tape will give you 1.2 CME hours in ethics. The tape and handout are available from Janet for checkout.

Upcoming CME Opportunities

Volunteers may use their CME stipend to attend any of the following seminars. All seminars listed will provide CME applicable to county mediation.

County mediator CME Luncheon, May 10th, Grand Jury Room. "Understanding the Importance of Diversity", presented by Evelyn Sapp, Alachua County Traffic Court Hearing Officer and Guardian-ad-litem Program Attorney. Eligible for up to 1.0 CME. Time: Noon. Cost: Free. *This will be the last CME luncheon until September.*

DRC County Mediation Summit, August 22nd, Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando. Eligible for up to 8.0 CME. Cost: \$55.

Two Continuing Mediator Education workshops presented by the Mediation Center of Tampa Bay, Inc. Two dates: July 11th and October 17th. Toll-free 1-877-777-6577. Workshops are titled:

"Ethics In Mediation" presented by Charles N. Castagna, Esq. Eligible for up to 4.0 CME Ethics credits. Cost: \$75. Time: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

"Improving Our Response to Domestic Violence" presented by Kelly Twiss, Director of Outreach Services, Center Against Spouse Abuse (CASA). Eligible for up to 4.0 CME domestic violence credits. Cost: \$20 donation to CASA. Time: 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

How to reach us:

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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

April 2002

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	71	36	58%	9	0
Baker	2	1	50%	0	0
Bradford	2	1	50%	0	0
Gilchrist	0	0	NA	0	0
Levy	3	2	67%	0	0
Union	2	1	50%	0	0
Total	80	41	61%	9	0

2002 Year-To-Date

January through April

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	238	136	61%	16	1
Baker	7	3	50%	1	0
Bradford	7	4	67%	1	0
Gilchrist	1	1	100%	0	0
Levy	18	9	53%	1	0
Union	6	3	50%	0	0
Total	277	156	60%	19	1

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