

## Volunteer Mediators

Mediators are volunteers who have completed the 40-hour training course that meets the standards set by the Michigan Supreme Court for basic community mediation training and have observed 10 hours of mediation. The 40-hour training is offered periodically by UPCAP Resolution Services and the other 20 centers across the State.

The 40 or so volunteer mediators of UPCAP Resolution Services include several persons with specialized training and experience in Domestic Relations Mediation and/or Parenting Time Mediation. At least one of the two co-mediators assigned to these cases will be trained and experienced in the appropriate specialized areas.

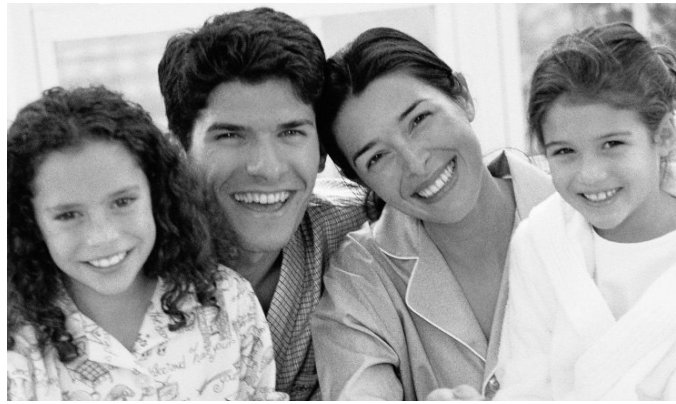
## When Mediation is NOT Appropriate

Mediation is not appropriate if one of the parties uses fear, force, threats, violence or intimidation to get what they want from the other party. If a person does not feel able to safely express their opinions in a respectful manner – even in the safe environment of the mediation and in the presence of two neutral mediators – communication and the mediation will not be successful.



## About Attorneys and Mediation

You are not required to have an attorney at mediation. You may, however, have your attorney present, or you may choose to have your attorney review any agreement reached before you choose to sign it. You are asked to let center staff know if you will be bringing your attorney to the mediation, as center staff must let the other party know to expect that. The other party is not required to bring an attorney, but he or she may then choose to bring one to balance the table.



## About the Organization...

In 1988, the Michigan legislature established the Community Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) to promote non-court alternatives for resolving disputes. Funding for the program comes from a portion of each filing fee collected in civil cases filed in Michigan courts.

UPCAP Resolution Services is one of 20 programs funded in part by the CDRP. The UPCAP Resolution Services Program is a non-profit organization founded in 1994 to promote resolution alternatives to the court process. The center provides citizens with the opportunity to mediate disagreements, determine their own solutions and resolve differences.

**1-800-780-3456 or  
(906) 789-9580  
or Call 2-1-1**



**Resolution Services Program  
UPCAP  
P.O. Box 606  
2501 14th Avenue South  
Escanaba, MI 49829**

# UPCAP Resolution Services



## Domestic Relations and/or Parenting Mediation

Turning Complex Issues into  
Cooperative Solutions!

[www.upcap.org](http://www.upcap.org)  
1-800-780-3456  
906-789-9580 or  
Call 2-1-1

# Putting Mediation to Work for You

## What Is Mediation?

Mediation is a process that enables people to resolve disputes by talking with one another in an informal, safe and confidential setting. Trained, neutral mediators help the parties come to an agreement without judging right or wrong. Only the parties involved decide what is in the agreement, not the mediator.

Each party describes the dispute from his or her own point of view and offers possible solutions. The mediator helps the parties to focus on the real issues causing the problem, then helps them to find a workable solution. When the parties arrive at an agreement, the agreement is put into writing

Whether or not you reach an agreement in mediation, your legal rights remain intact. While many problems can be resolved in mediation, you can discuss with your attorney or a mediator whether or not the issues in your case can be mediated. Cases involving on-going violence are never mediated.



## Common Disputes Resolved by Domestic Relations and/or Parenting Mediation

Regardless of their marital status, a child's parents will always be his or her parents. Parents may disagree on important issues. Mediation can help the parents reach agreement, and consequently, provide a healthier and less stressful environment for the children and for themselves. Mediation provides a safe and neutral setting, and mediators can guide the discussion of any or all of the following issues:

- Custody
- Parenting Time/Visitation
- Support
- Communication
- Parenting/Discipline
- Division of debts and assets
- Specific decisions related to children, i.e. education, vacations, extracurricular opportunities, medical care, orthodontics, and others
- Needs of other family members

## It works!

Mediation is a "win-win" rather than a "win-lose" solution. Over 80% mediations end in agreement, even when other attempts to settle have failed.

## It's convenient!

Most mediations are scheduled within two weeks, and most disputes are resolved in one meeting. Sessions can be scheduled weekdays, Saturdays, and evenings.

## It's confidential!

Almost everything disclosed during mediation is confidential and cannot be used in a lawsuit. The matter does not become part of the public record.

## It's affordable!

Court costs and attorney fees can be avoided or reduced. Cost of mediation is based on ability to pay.

## It's cooperative, not adversarial!

Mediation provides a comfortable, safe and respectful setting for discussion.



Visit our website - [www.upcap.org](http://www.upcap.org)