



JUVENILE MEDIATION

WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation is a process in which conflicting parties voluntarily agree (or are court ordered) to work towards resolving a dispute with the help of a neutral third party, known as a mediator.

Examples of appropriate mediation situations:

- Victim offender
- Family Conflict
- Communicating threats
- Assaults

Mediations are conducted in a private and confidential setting.



The goal of the Juvenile Mediation Program is to address juvenile problems and conflicts that arise either at home, in school or in the community. By resolving these issues, juveniles will improve their relationships with parents, peers, school personnel, and victims, thereby reducing the likelihood of recidivism, decreasing school behavioral problems and increasing family harmony.

We can receive referrals from:

- DJJ
- School systems
- Law enforcement
- DSS
- Parents/Guardians

EXAMPLES OF REFERRALS

Victim Offender:

- Fighting

- Communicating threats

- Inappropriate physical contact
- Bullying

Family Conflict:

- Family group conferencing

- Foster parent(s) & foster child
- Parent(s) & child

- Guardian & child
- Foster sibling & Foster sibling

Victimless:

- Vandalism
- Underage drinking on school property

- Bringing weapons on school property
- Use of Prohibited Substance/ Vaping or Tobacco products

- Defiant students
- Truancy

WHERE WILL MEDIATIONS TAKE PLACE?

Mediation services will be provided at accessible locations such as the MRJC office in the courthouse or any private meeting rooms. Mediations may also be conducted at public schools when appropriate. Due to working remotely, meeting in person is available or over video conferencing/over the phone.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRINCIPLES

MRJC's Juvenile Mediation Program is based on the principles of "restorative justice" — to rebuild and correct, rather than simply to punish and obtain retribution.

Restorative Justice:

- fosters a win/win outcome
- allows parties to meet and communicate
- places the emphasis on victim healing rather than defendant punishment
- promotes a restoration of losses to the victim

Restorative Justice helps both parties move forward, repairs the harm, rebuilds (or appropriately dissolves) relationships, and also humanizes participants beyond their "labels." These benefits lead to a safer and more connected community, and create resiliency and protective factors among residents.



WHY SEND JUVENILES TO MEDIATION?

Through undisciplined/delinquency mediation, victim-offender mediation, and other restorative processes, juveniles will:

- participate in discussing and resolving their own negative behaviors
- learn to take responsibility for their actions and feelings
- be held accountable for their actions by having to face the person(s) with whom they are in conflict
- be diverted from the school-to-prison pipeline

By working out an agreement to move forward and prevent future problems, juveniles improve relationships with their families, peers, and others.