



Cleveland Mediation Center (CMC) has been mediating community disputes and providing conflict resolution and mediation training to greater Cleveland since 1981, distinguishing CMC as the first community mediation center in Ohio.

In 2017, CMC merged with our long-time partner FrontLine Service, expanding our ability to serve the community. CMC's mission is to promote just and peaceful community in Northeast Ohio by honoring all people, building their capacity to act, and facilitating opportunities for them to engage in conflict constructively.

CMC has been working with landlords and tenants since 1994, using mediation and conflict resolution skills as tools to lower eviction rates in Cuyahoga County, effectively preventing homelessness by keeping people housed. We provide an alternative conflict resolution method by helping landlords and tenants have conversations about their concerns and ideas, including rent owed, payment plans, housing concerns, move out dates and process, etc. CMC has also trained community members and attorneys to do this work.

Mediating Eviction Cases

Eviction is an increasingly severe problem for individuals and families in our community. According to Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, there are over 11,000 evictions in the Cleveland Housing Court every year.

Since August 2016, CMC has been partnering with Presiding Judge Deborah J. Nicastro of the Garfield Heights Municipal Court to provide mediation services to landlords and tenants for eviction cases in Brecksville, Cuyahoga Heights, Garfield Heights, Independence, Maple Heights, Newburgh Heights, Valley View and Walton Hills. CMC has been able to successfully apply their skill set and experience working with landlords and tenants to this setting.

About Mediation

Mediation creates an opportunity for parties to jointly resolve their concerns prior to their first scheduled court date, with the help of a neutral third party. Mediation allows parties to work things out directly by having a conversation with each other, helping those involved to correct misunderstandings and be satisfied with the outcomes because they have created them. For landlords and tenants, mediation can be a less costly, less stressful alternative to litigation. They have more control over the outcome, and therefore more likely to adhere to the agreements they have made.

Mediation can be offered or required before and/or after an eviction case is filed. The mediation discussion may include payment plans for back rent, repair issues and the condition of the dwelling, planning a voluntary move-out, or more effective ways to communicate. If parties reach an agreement, it is written down and filed with the court. Future court hearings are cancelled if parties come to their own agreement in mediation, freeing up the court docket.

Benefits to Court & Community

- Save time/resources by reducing cases on docket
- Community members are empowered to resolve their own disputes—less court filings, less police involvement
- Opportunity for a peaceful move out—lowers risk of property damage, no need for a bailiff
- Mediation can resolve or bring closure to situations that the court cannot address
- Parties are more satisfied with outcomes because they have created them—no appeals
- Mediation is helpful even if the parties ultimately do appear in court—their concerns have been clarified and they have had the chance to hear the perspective of the other party, possibly for the first time
- Better serving community needs—can improve communication & understanding between parties—can prevent future disputes or court filings, can repair relationships or end them in a more peaceful way, this reduces hostility and conflict in community which saves city and court resources

For more information visit
www.clevelandmediationcenter.org
or call us at **216-621-1919**.

Court Connected Mediation

"The Cleveland Mediation Center has enabled the Garfield Heights Municipal Court to offer landlords and tenants an alternative to courtroom confrontations and legal proceedings that neither may understand. The litigants have an opportunity to discuss their differences and continue the tenancy or negotiate a peaceful dissolution without the intervention of bailiffs or police. Many families have been able to remain in their homes without disruption of the children's school enrollment while others have been able to relocate without loss of property and in a dignified fashion. The professional mediators from the Cleveland Mediation Center provide the guidance the parties need to reach amicable solutions to the tenancy problems."

—Judge Deborah Nicastro,
Garfield Heights Municipal Court



Cleveland Mediation Center
A Program of FrontLine Service

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