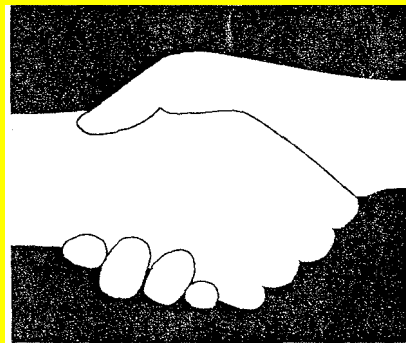


(Revised 9/02)

HAMPSHIRE PROBATE AND FAMILY
COURT

APPROVED PROGRAMS FOR MEDIATION



Hampshire Probate and Family Court

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| APPROVED PROGRAMS FOR MEDIATION (As of September, 2002) |
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Mediation is one method available to you for solving the disputes you bring to the Probate and Family Court. Mediation is a voluntary process. The court can require that you attend a "screening" or orientation to mediation so that you can learn more about the process, but no one can force you to mediate, and no one can force you to reach an agreement. Many people who try mediation find that it helps them resolve their dispute. Most people find that agreements they make themselves are more satisfying than decisions imposed on them by a judge.

The mediator is a neutral person who helps you clarify the issues you have to solve, talk about them in an orderly way, and explore your options to see if you can reach an agreement. Some mediators are attorneys and some are not. But when an attorney is acting as a mediator, he or she does not represent either party. Mediators can give you a great deal of information, but it is not appropriate for a mediator to give you legal advice.

Detailed rules govern mediation in the court. Under the rules, certain programs have been approved to provide mediation. The court may refer you to a particular program, but you may select any program on the list or any other mediation provider of your choice. In order to be approved to provide mediation services to the Court, the programs and their mediators must meet many requirements, including:

- A. They must respect your right to decide whether to make an agreement or not;
- B. They must allow you to decide if you want your attorney or other advisor present in the mediation session;
- C. They must have a fee schedule that provides for reduced fees for low income participants;
- D. They must follow ethical standards such as keeping your mediation confidential being impartial, helping you understand the mediation process, and helping you get sufficient information to make fair agreements.

The approved programs for the Hampshire Probate and Family Court are attached with brief descriptions of each.

HAMPSHIRE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

APPROVED PROGRAMS

(As of September, 2002)

1. **JUDEX/ADR, (LLC)**

422 Washington Street
Woburn, MA 01801

Contact: Hon. William Highgas (Ret.)

Telephone: (781) 935-4080

Subjects Mediated:

Fees: \$75-\$150 per party plus \$125 for document preparation
(Reduced fee / fee waiver available)

Languages: Spanish, Polish, Russian, and French

ADR Service Provided: Mediation

2. **Massachusetts Council on Family Mediation, Inc.**

134 Middle Street
Lowell, MA 01852

Contact: Karen J. Levitt, Esq.

Telephone: (978) 458-5550

Local address: 190 University Drive
Amherst, MA 01002

Local Contact: Oran Kaufman, Esq.

Email: okaufman@ia-bkfc.com

Telephone: (413) 253-3900

Subjects Mediated: Divorce, separation, paternity, guardianship and all family-related matters

Fees: Vary according to the Neutral

Languages: Dutch, French, Hebrew and Spanish

ADR Services Provided: Arbitration, Case Evaluation, Conciliation, Mediation

3. **The Mediation and Training Collaborative**

277 Main Street, Suite 401
Greenfield, MA 01301-3267

Contact: Savannah Ouellette

Telephone: (413) 774-7469

E-mail: mediation@fcac.net

Subjects Mediated: Divorce, post-divorce, separation, custody, parent-child, adoption and permanency planning, guardianship and non-

Mediation location available in Hampshire County

traditional families.

Fees: Vary according to level of income and number of dependents (\$0 - \$100/hour/person). Financially accessible to all

Languages- Spanish

Special Features: Diverse roster of over 10 mediators, Case management and referral services, physically accessible.

ADR Service Provided: Mediation

4. **Quabbin Mediation**

P. O. Box 544

Athol, MA 01331

Contact: Sharon Tracy

Telephone (978) 544-6142

Fees: For divorce mediation: \$50 per hour per person (Reduced fee available)

Languages: American Sign, Khmer, Laotian, Spanish

ADR Service Provided: Mediation

**Local Dispute Resolution Coordinator
Hampshire Probate and Family Court:**

**Mary Lynn Carroll
Phone: (413) 586-8500**