

YOUTH and FAMILY MEDIATION

The Youth and Family Mediation Program assists families in resolving conflicts between adolescents and their parents or caregivers. Parent-child mediation encourages structured negotiations about concrete issues of family life, such as: truancy, trust and communication, house rules and responsibilities, sibling and parent/teen fighting, foster or step parent relationships, drugs, dating and sex. By helping families proactively address these issues at home, they are less likely to turn to more costly interventions involving the juvenile and court systems.

Mediation is based on the premise that compliance with agreements made in the mediation session fosters collaborative interactions between family members, increases trust between parents and youth, and provides a model for future negotiations on other issues. It is an effective alternative to avoidance, destructive confrontation, or violence. It gives the family in conflict an opportunity to take responsibility for the resolution of their dispute, control of the outcome, and to make positive choices.

VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION

The Clackamas County Family Court Services (FCS) Youth and Family Mediation (YFM) Program benefits from the help of volunteers in many ways. Volunteer work for the program varies, from assisting with mediations to training and program development. Below is a general description of the role a Youth and Family Mediator volunteer can play in the program. Other possible roles for volunteers include Roleplay Coaching, Assistant Trainer or Practicum Student/Intern. Special project ideas can also be discussed and developed on a one-on-one basis with the YFM Program Coordinator.

Youth and Family Mediators are teens and adults with mediation training and experience. These volunteers are called to co-mediate a family conflict, either in FCS offices or at an off-site location convenient to the clients. Each volunteer is responsible for his/her own transportation to the mediation, unless otherwise established with the YFM Program Coordinator, and it is therefore prudent to call the office prior to driving to the mediation to check and see if the mediation is still scheduled. The volunteer will arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the mediation to meet with their co-mediator, review the case file, and mentally prepare for the mediation. Afterwards, the mediators will have an opportunity to debrief the mediation with the YFM Program Coordinator.

Minimum qualifications for Volunteer Youth and Family Mediators

- 15 (or more) hours of Peer and/or Basic Mediation training/experience, plus
- 15 hours of Youth and Family Mediation Training provided by FCS

NOTE: Total training/experience must meet the requirements for mediators in community dispute resolution programs, as set forth by the Oregon Administrative Rules (ORS 36.175).

Work Description

- Participate in a co-mediation model that uses adults/teens working together
- Provide a safe process for clients
- Abide by confidentiality agreement
- Be respectful of clients
- Be aware of how cultural issues affect the mediation
- Participate in on-going supervision by Program Coordinator

YOUTH and FAMILY MEDIATOR VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

This agreement is made by and between Clackamas County Family Court Services (FCS) Youth and Family Mediation (YFM) Program and FOR EXAMPLE ONLY (volunteer name).

FCS agrees to provide to the volunteer:

1. Ongoing feedback for participation as a volunteer mediator.
2. Roleplay practice sessions and/or follow-up training activities.
3. Stipend of \$15.00 per mediation session.
4. Stipend of \$10.00 per hour volunteered as an assistant trainer.
5. Letter or certificate of completion upon fulfillment of this agreement.
6. *Liability statement.*

In addition, FCS will make available and strongly encourages the volunteer to attend the following continuing education opportunities:

1. Monthly continuing education trainings, held at FCS's offices the **last Tuesday of each month, 10am-12:00noon.**
2. Quarterly continuing education trainings, hosted by **Metro Collaborative Group.**
3. Oregon Mediation Association Salons, held the **2nd Thursday of each month, 4-5:30pm.**

Announcements regarding time, location and subject matter will be e-mailed out prior to the event.

The volunteer agrees to:

1. Be available for a 1-year period to:
 - After discussion with the YFM Program Coordinator, observe and then co-mediate Youth and Family Mediation sessions.
 - Participate in a minimum of 4 mediation sessions and/or roleplay practice sessions per year.
 - Attend continuing education trainings.
2. Provide YFM Program Coordinator with schedule of availability for mediations; and promptly notify of any changes to regular schedule and of holiday schedule.
3. Meet with co-mediator 15 minutes prior to each case appointment time to review the case file and plan for the session.
4. Participate in mediation cases from beginning to end.
5. Secure transportation to and from mediation sessions and/or trainings, unless otherwise coordinated with the YFM Program Coordinator.
6. Assist in the development of a Learning Contract to include specific goals and competencies desired by the volunteer, and work toward achievement of the Learning Contract.
7. Learn and adhere to Clackamas County and Family Court Services policies and procedures, applicable codes of ethics, and State and Federal law.
8. Learn and adhere to Clackamas County Family Court Services Youth and Family Mediation Confidentiality Agreement, including reporting practices.