



Phil Johnson
State Director

DISPUTE RESOLUTION ACT

The purpose of the Dispute Resolution Act, which was enacted in 1983, is to:

“provide to all people of this state convenient access to dispute resolution proceedings which are fair, effective, inexpensive and expeditious.”

In 1986, the Supreme Court of Oklahoma adopted the rules and procedures for the Dispute Resolution Act, 12 O.S. 1801 et seq., providing guidelines for the establishment of dispute resolution centers. A 15-member Dispute Resolution Advisory Board appointed by the Supreme Court of Oklahoma serves in an advisory role to the Administrative Director of the Courts who oversees the Alternative Dispute Resolution System. The State Director of the Alternative Dispute Resolution System manages the program operations which are based out of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The thirteen (13) regionally based Early Settlement Centers operate under the authority of the Oklahoma Dispute Resolution Act and are funded* by a \$7 district court civil filing fee. Annual renewable grants are awarded to the sponsoring agency by the Administrative Director of the Courts.

* The Tulsa Program receives partial funding & the City of Norman is self-funded.

MEDIATION SERVICES

Small Claims/Civil

Child Custody

Divorce

Adult Guardianship

Child Permanency

Parent/School

Real Estate

Neighbors

Family

Consumer/
Merchant

Community

Landlord/Tenant

SERVICES OFFERED

Early Settlement Centers serve all 77 counties in Oklahoma offering **FREE** mediation services to all who wish to negotiate interpersonal matters. Cases resolved by mediation may involve money, property, business transactions, personal relationships, harassment, animal disturbances, neighborhood disturbances, assault, child permanency, or other matters. The disputes may be with mates, ex-mates, other family members, neighbors, property owners or tenants, consumers or merchants.

WHO ARE THE MEDIATORS?

Early Settlement Mediators are community volunteers who have completed specialized mediation training, observed by the program director or certified volunteer mediator, and are certified by the Administrative Director of the Courts. They assist the parties in negotiating and resolving their own problems. There are over 350 active community volunteer mediators statewide.



DISPUTE RESOLUTION ADVISORY BOARD

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ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SYSTEM Fiscal Year 2021 Report

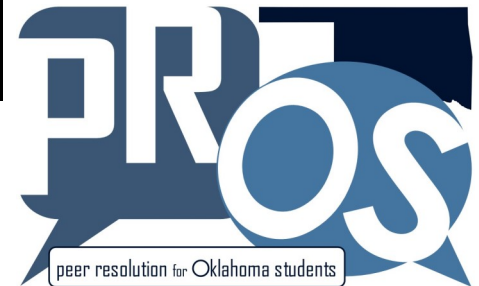
In mediation, a neutral, third party helps those in conflict define issues, explore

HOW MEDIATION WORKS

solutions and reach practical, workable, and mutually satisfactory agreements. Mediation seeks to prevent conflicts from escalating, saving everyone involved the time and expense of going to court. All case information is confidential.

SCHOOL-BASED PEER MEDIATION

The Administrative Office of the Courts, Alternative Dispute Resolution Program partnered with the University of Central Oklahoma in January, 2021 to begin a statewide Peer Mediation Program. Students are taught to use conflict as a positive force that can lessen the detrimental effects of conflict while increasing a student's social skills and promoting a positive self-image. In the words of the first lady on the Oklahoma Supreme Court (1982), Honorable Justice Alma Wilson,



“If we teach Oklahoma’s young people about resolving conflicts in a peaceable manner the impact will be far reaching for future generations.”



LAW SCHOOL STUDENT EXTERNS

All three (3) Oklahoma law schools participate in a student extern program offered through the local Early Settlement programs. The law students are required to complete specialized mediation training and become certified during the course of the externship. Participants get mediation experience conducting small claims, real estate and civil mediations. Many students choose to participate in a second externship mediating family and divorce cases. Over 300 law students have participated since the program was established.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SYSTEM Annual Report Fiscal Year 2021 (JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021)

CASE TYPES FY 2020	CASES REFERRED	CASES MEDIATED	AGREEMENT RATE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS TRAINED
Civil/Small Claims	2,631	1,590	55%	6,527	113
Family/Divorce	2,004	1,475	66%	6,981	16
Child Permanency	167	137	57%	1,517	5
Adult Guardianship	21	18	67%	117	0
Adjunct Settlement	191	160	66%	1,719	0
TOTALS	5,014	3,361	Average 62%	16,861	134