

# EARLY SETTLEMENT MEDIATION

*The latest news and updates from the Southeast Program*



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*By Sara Northcutt, Program Director*

### **Volunteer Resignation**

Longtime volunteers Nancy Gates and James Ward have both inevitably announced their resignation as mediators for the Early Settlement Mediation Southeast Program. Nancy and James joined the Early Settlement team in November 2001 and, up until the pandemic, continually put in countless hours on a weekly basis to provide their time and efforts to making Southeast Oklahoma a more peaceful place.

Nancy, who was awarded volunteer of the year in 2010, plans to travel more with her husband, Wayne. James, volunteer of the year in 2006, has moved in with family in Virginia where he resides on a golf course where he is being "treated like a King".

As hard as it is to lose two individuals who have been the backbone to our program, we are more than thrilled to hear about their new (& well-deserved) journeys in life. We wish them the very best!

We will be hosting a volunteer luncheon in McAlester to honor both Nancy and James. Please keep an eye out for an email with more information regarding a date, time, & location.



## MATERNITY LEAVE ANNOUNCEMENT

**IT'S A GIRL!**

Program Director, Sara Northcutt, will be going on maternity leave from July 26th, 2021 until November 1st, 2021. Please forward your correspondence to the

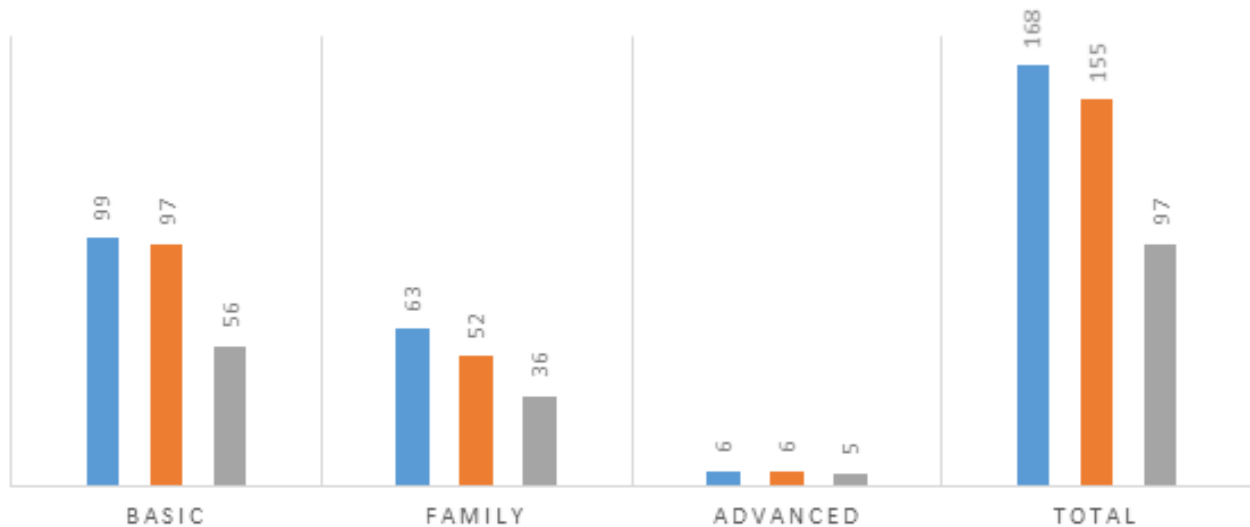
Early Settlement Mediation Staff's email at

ESSoutheast@oscn.net and/or

Rhonda.Haworth@oscn.net. Our staff works on a part-time basis and will be able to assist you during Sara's leave. You can also reach them by telephone at (918) 429-0386. Our volunteers will continue to provide mediation services during Sara's leave.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT SOUTHEAST END OF YEAR CASE SUMMARY FY21

■ Referred ■ Held ■ Agreement



I want to thank the staff and volunteers for pushing through one of the toughest years we have faced as individuals, families, and community leaders. Due to our incredible staff and committed volunteers we were able to continue mediation services through a worldwide pandemic with an overall agreement rate of 63% of cases mediated. I am thankful for the support by the judges, attorneys, and courthouse staff as well. I look forward to the new Fiscal Year and serving the courts and communities of Southeast Oklahoma!

*-Sara Northcutt, Program Director*