

EARLY SETTLEMENT MEDIATION

Southeast Program's Monthly Newsletter



Creating Solutions for Families

By Sara Northcutt

Married couples who separate do not have to become mortal enemies. There is another way.

Mediation provides a confidential, non-adversarial process where divorcing spouses work in tandem to negotiate their own settlement with the aid of an impartial third party mediator.

Unfortunately, children inevitably get caught in between and may end up paying a very high emotional price during the separation and long after the couple divorces. Furthermore, the couple's assets can be significantly diminished as the process drags on.

Mediation allows the couple to retain control of the negotiation process. The mediator makes negotiations less difficult by creating a safe, confidential environment, and reducing the wedge between the couple as they work through these difficult issues.

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OFFICE CLOSED FOR
FALL BREAK
OCT 11TH-14TH, 2022

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Mediation can aid in healing important relationships, including those between each parent and child. Each family is unique, therefore, parents must learn to co-parent in whatever way benefits everyone. Creating a cooperative process through mediation makes inevitable parenting discussions down the road easier for both parents. It also enables parents to design structures that align to their unique situation.

Finally, mediated divorces have a far higher compliance rate than adversarial divorces because the couple takes ownership of the agreement.

Mediation works

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.

Last year, Early Settlement mediated over 1,400 family cases with a 68% agreement rate.

Mediation works because it allows the couple to retain control of the negotiation process. The mediator makes negotiations less difficult by creating a safe, confidential environment, and serving as a buffer between the couple as they work through difficult issues.



EARLY SETTLEMENT SOUTHEAST OFFICE LOCATIONS

Pittsburg County Courthouse - Main Office

115 E. Carl Albert Pkwy STE 201

McAlester, Ok 74501

P: (918) 429-0386

C: Sara Northcutt, Program Director

E: Sara.Northcutt@oscn.net

McCurtain County Courthouse - Satellite Office

108 N. Central Ave

Idabel, Ok 74745

P: (580) 208-

C: Rebecca Going, PT Office coordinator

E: Rebecca.Going@oscn.net



Volunteer Highlight

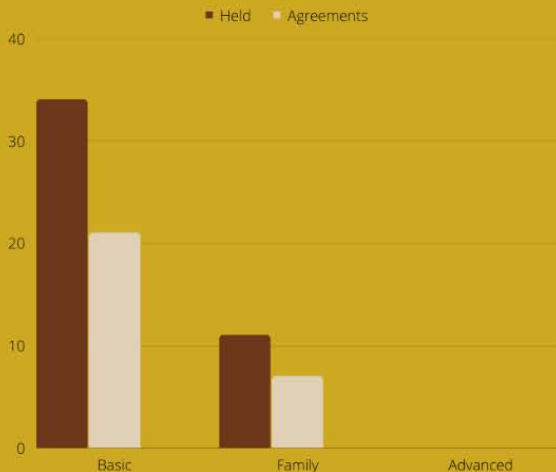
Ruth Brelsford
Retired professor
Red Oak

ES Southeast's 2018 and 2019 Volunteer of the Year Nominee, Ruth's trainings & experiences with Restorative Justice principles, Quaker faith, and educator in Conflict Resolution at Jackie Brannon all keep her dedicated to her community. She advocates for criminal justice reform and has training in Alternatives to Violence techniques.

Ruth is certified in Basic, Family, & Child Permanency for 5 years & is also committed to her volunteer work through CASA to help restore justice to families and children of SE Oklahoma.



FY 23 Case Summary



BASIC
37 Referred
34 Held
21 Agreements
FAMILY
16 Referred
11 Held
7 Agreements
ADVANCED
- Referred
- Held
- Agreements

*Numbers reflect July 2022-August 2022
*Agreements are cases that ended in full or partial agreement