

MEDIATION IS:

a private, confidential, decision-making process in which an impartial facilitator, the mediator, assists disputing parties in structured negotiation. All decisions are made by the parties themselves. If no decision is reached, the parties are free to go to court.

BENEFITS OF MEDIATION

- It is informal.
- It is confidential.
- It saves participants time and money.
- It emphasizes problem-solving.
- It emphasizes self-determination.
- It allows participants to contribute more directly to the outcome.

Volunteer mediators with the MMC enjoy the satisfaction of helping people find solutions for conflict situations. They are passionate about mediation and seek opportunities to help individuals, families and the community as a whole through mediation.



MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE MIDLANDS MEDIATION CENTER IS TO HELP INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS RESOLVE CONFLICT, IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS, AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES.



4801 Colonial Drive
Columbia, SC 29203

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www.midlandsmediation.org

MMC is located on the 2nd floor of the College Place United Methodist Church Administrative/Education Building

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday–Thursday 9am–4pm

Friday by appointment

DONATE TO MMC:

www.midlandsmediation.org
or mail a check payable to MMC,
PO Box 5942, Columbia, SC 29250
All donations are tax-deductible.

MEDIATION.

LET'S
TALK
ABOUT
IT.



COLUMBIA, SC

Your source for low-cost mediation service

803.714.1176

midlandsmediation.org



UNRESOLVED CONFLICT CAUSES STRESS AND DIMINISHES QUALITY OF LIFE.

**CALL US:
(803)
714-1176**

CONFLICT IS NATURAL AND NORMAL.

Individuals and groups of individuals have varied needs and points of view that create conflict in all areas of daily life. Conflicts can manifest in different ways. Sometimes parties are open with their conflicts, and sometimes they avoid and withdraw from the situation.

Whatever the sources and appearances of conflict, one thing is certain: unresolved conflict causes stress and diminishes quality of life.

MIDLANDS MEDIATION CENTER CAN HELP.

MMC provides low-cost* services in:

- **Family Mediation**
- **Civil Mediation**
- **Community Mediation**
- **Real Estate Mediation**
- **Workplace Mediation**
- **Mediator and Conflict Resolution Training**
- **Conflict Coaching Workshops**

Founded in 1998, the Midlands Mediation Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered with the South Carolina Secretary of State. It provides low-cost mediation and conflict management services to individuals and organizations in the Midlands of South Carolina.

**Fees are calculated on a sliding scale based on individuals' annual income.*

WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation is a confidential, non-adversarial process. It relies on a neutral third party — a mediator — to facilitate the flow of a conversation about the conflict.

The mediator guides the conversation as the parties create their own agreement. A mediator is not there to provide legal advice or expertise and does not take sides. Instead, he or she acts as a non-judgmental third party who facilitates problem-solving between the parties.

Participating in mediation does not prevent the parties from pursuing other options, if they do not reach agreement. However, MMC believes that, in many cases, mediation provides a better way and leads to more peaceful solutions.

MEDIATION SERVICES

Civil Court: Provides volunteer mediators to Magistrate's Court to save time and cost in court trials and legal fees.

Community Mediation: Provides mediation in disputes such as neighbor–neighbor and landlord–tenant cases. Rate based on sliding fee scale. A \$25/party administrative fee also is applied.

Family Mediation: Provides mediation in cases relating to separation/divorce, child custody, support and property. Rate based on sliding fee scale. A \$25/party administrative fee also is applied.

Real Estate or Workplace Mediation: Assists disputants in resolving conflict in real estate or employer–employee disputes. Hourly rates and administrative fees apply.

TRAINING SERVICES

Basic Mediator Training: MMC trainers offer a 40-hour training two or three times per year. Participants who complete the training are eligible to become volunteer mediators for MMC's Civil Mediation program in county magistrates' courts. Fees apply.

Community Workshops or One-Day Trainings: MMC trainers will provide fee-for-service training in mediation, conflict coaching and conflict resolution skills by request.

MEDIATOR QUALIFICATIONS

MMC mediators meet eligibility requirements for the type of mediation they provide. At minimum, mediators are prepared to provide volunteer mediation in civil court after they complete the MMC basic mediator training.

Family mediators are most often experienced attorneys, many of whom practice family law and/or have completed the Family Mediation Training sponsored by the S.C. Bar. They are volunteer mediators for MMC, enabling mediation fees to return to support the Center.

