

WHAT IS A CMC?

A Community Mediation Center (CMC) provides mediation services and training, regardless of the parties' ability to pay, with priority given to those who cannot afford to pay market rates for mediation.

All CMCs in TN are nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations that rely on public monies as well as private donations and grants. They all have programs that provide pro bono mediation for participants, and they all partner with local courts.

In addition to mediation, some CMCs offer conflict management training to local businesses, schools, community groups, and individuals.

Primary Referring Partners

- General Sessions Courts, both Criminal & Civil
 - evictions, debt, contracts; ordinance violations
- Juvenile Courts
 - delinquency, status offenders
 - custody and visitation for never-married parents/guardians
- DA's offices, Police departments
 - assault, harassment, theft, vandalism
- K-12 schools
 - fighting, bullying, truancy, assault
- Private attorneys, individuals, businesses

VOLUNTEERING WITH A COMMUNITY MEDIATION CENTER

THANK YOU for considering pro bono mediation through a CMC!

All of TN's centers offer mediators a variety of mediation opportunities, continuing education, and community networking.

Each CMC is different. They have different programs, different scheduling opportunities, and different in-person or online opportunities.

Please keep in mind that CMCs are often understaffed and may be slow to return a call or email.

Visit their websites!

(listed on the opposite page)

FAQ: Will I receive any special training for their programs?

Yes, Even if you are a Rule 31 Mediator, the CMC understands that you will need additional training in specific program policies, protocols, and forms.

FAQ: Will I mediate solo right away?

Most centers will have new volunteers co-mediate for a set period of time. This is particularly beneficial for new mediators and for those who have less experience working with the CMC's target service population.

FAQ: Do I need professional insurance or am I covered by the CMC?

There is a statutory immunity which covers mediation center volunteers, TCA 16-20-101 et seq., but a center may have its own professional liability coverage for its volunteer mediators.

CMCs ARE

- **ACCESSIBLE:** CMCs strive to reduce barriers to service including physical, linguistic, cultural, programmatic, economic, and geographic.
- **LOW COST:** CMCS provide service to clients regardless of their ability to pay.
- **OUTCOME-ORIENTED:** CMCs initiate, facilitate, and educate collaborative community relationships to effect positive systemic change.
- **INNOVATIVE:** CMCs provide an alternative to the judicial system at any stage of a conflict.
- **COMMUNITY-BASED:** CMCs are comprised of mediators, staff, and governing/advisory boards representative of the diversity of the community served.
- **INCLUSIVE:** CMCs provide service and hire without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, disabilities, national origin, marital status, personal appearance, gender identity, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, source of income.
- **NEWSWORTHY:** CMCs are engaged in public awareness and educational activities about the values and practices of mediation.

IN-PERSON MEDIATION

EAST TN

Community Mediation Center

Location: Knoxville
Judicial District 6 (Knox County)
<https://2mediate.org>

Community Mediation Services

Location: Clinton
Judicial District 7 (Anderson, Oak Ridge)
www.cms-tn.org

Community Mediation of East Tennessee

Location: Sevierville
Judicial District 4 (Sevier + 3)
vicki@mediate-tn.org

VORP/Community Mediation Center

Location: Crossville
Judicial District 13 (Cumberland + 2)
vorp.crossville@gmail.com

MIDDLE TN

Nashville Conflict Resolution Center

Location: Nashville
Judicial Districts 20, 21, 16, 18, 19
<https://nashvilleconflict.org/>

The Mediation Center

Location: Columbia
Judicial Districts 22, 21, and 17
<https://columbiamediation.org>

WEST TN

Mid-South Community Justice & Mediation Center (CJAM)

Location: Memphis
Judicial District 30 (Shelby)
<https://cjammediation.org/>

REMOTE MEDIATION

CMCs increasingly offer remote mediation services, making it easier for mediators to volunteer for cases originating anywhere in the state.

CMCs are particularly in need of online mediators who are comfortable managing their own tech (e.g., Zoom with breakout rooms, shared screens, DocuSign, etc.) with minimal support. Some centers can provide technical assistance and/or training.

REMOTE MEDIATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Community Mediation Center

Location: Knoxville
info@2mediate.org
<https://2mediate.org>

Nashville Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC)

Location: Nashville
info@nashvilleconflict.org
<https://nashvilleconflict.org/>

The Mediation Center

Location: Columbia
info@columbiamediation.org
<https://columbiamediation.org>

Mid-South Community Justice & Mediation Center (CJAM)

Location: Memphis
info@cjammediation.org
<https://cjammediation.org/>

