

CENTRAL TEXAS DISPUTE RESOLUTION MEDIATOR NOTES

AUGUST 2024

Hello all:

We want to take a minute to thank all our faithful volunteers who stepped up and volunteered for **Settlement Week/Drop docket for Comal County Courts**. We were amazed and so blessed with your responses. Now the “bad news,” there are no cases for Settlement Week. Now the “good news,” you have your first week of September free from Settlement Cases.

Again, thanks for stepping up! We are blessed to have the best volunteers ever!

Thanks you from Martha, Karisha, and Connie



Divorces with Military Families

Mediating family law cases is difficult enough. When one, or both, spouse is military – active or retired- it brings different rules and information into play. For divorce or legal separation situations that require representation in civil court or involve contested issues such as child custody, spousal/child support or division of assets, military personnel are advised to consult with a civilian attorney.

Here are a couple of resources we found interesting.

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/relationships/separation-divorce/rights-and-benefits-of-divorced-spouses-in-the-military/>

<https://www.statesidelegal.org/divorce-military-families-how-it-s-different-what-you-need->

Bias and judgement

As mediators, we are supposed to be objective and neutral, but are we always? None of us are 100% free of judgments and biases. Take a minute before your mediation and try to be more conscious of your own reactions and triggers. Having a bias is not bad, but we need to acknowledge it to ourselves so we can be more impartial. Class, sexuality, gender identity, national origin, marital status and physical attractiveness are additional factors that may lead to different types of biases. The key is to acknowledge to yourself that the bias exists and learn ways to manage them to remain effective with the parties.

Resources: <https://www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/publications/youraba/2017/july-2017/the-first-step-to-eliminating-implicit-bias--admit-you-have-it-/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYyvbGINZkQ>



Mental Health

It seems like we all know someone whose life has been touched by suicide. Autumn anxiety and depression can happen this time of year. School starting, summer sunshine disappearing, holidays looming can all cause anxiety and even depression. Sometimes just being there can help someone who is considering suicide. The new hotline number 988 is a way to have someone access help.

Up Coming Trainings:

CTDRC –

30 hour Advance Family starts Oct. 3, 2024 over zoom.

Call Connie to sign up at 512-878-0382



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION GROUP

Join our round table discussion every month. One of Steven Covey's Habits of highly effective people is "sharpen the saw" The sessions are meant to be an hour-long discussion on timely mediation topics to help keep our skills sharp and up to date. Zoom link is the same for each meeting and Chris Turner is our moderator. Last Monday of every month at 11:45. August 26 is our next.

Use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83608114262?pwd=VlV4bW8xUTVTVlAwQ0Q5eUh5VHdGZz09>

From the Folks in Lubbock

Saturday, September 7th: Criminal Mediation: Juveniles, Minors, and Special Populations of Adults (IN-PERSON ONLY - Lubbock)

- Join us for a skill-building discussion on mediating criminal cases for juveniles and parents, minors, and special populations such as veterans and homeless. We will give an overview of the referral process, unique things to look for, and ideas to help the defendant have a "paradigm shift", hopefully diverting them away from the criminal justice system in the future. (\$25 for MCLE, otherwise FREE)
- This course is approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 4 hours, of which 0.5 hours will apply to legal ethics/professional responsibility credit.

Tuesday, October 8th – Thursday, October 10th: Guardianship Mediation Training (IN-PERSON ONLY – Salado)

- Join us for the ONLY Texas Guardianship Association sanctioned Guardianship Mediation Training in the State of Texas! This 24-hour workshop provides individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to mediate guardianship related matters. EARLY BIRD RATE OF \$375 ENDS SEPTEMBER 10TH!!
- This course is approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 24 hours, of which 3.25 hours will apply to legal ethics/professional responsibility credit.
- This course is approved by JBCC for Guardians for 24 total hours (20.25 non-ethics, 3.25 ethics, 0.5 legislative updates).

Friday, October 18th – Case Law Review (WEBINAR)

- Larry Spain, Alvin R. Allison Professor of Law 2015, Texas Tech University, will be providing an in depth view of case law pertaining to mediation. This webinar will be helpful for attorneys, parties, and mediators and is available at NO COST!
- This course is approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 1 hours, of which 0.25 hours will apply to legal ethics/professional responsibility credit.

Saturday, November 16th – How to Sue a Mediator (IN-PERSON ONLY – Lubbock)

- Many mediators are under the impression that they are immune to lawsuits. The reality is lawsuits against mediators CAN happen, and for a variety of reasons. Join us to learn when you could be at risk and what to avoid. (\$25 for MCLE, otherwise FREE)
- This course is approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 4 hours, of which 1 hours will apply to legal ethics/professional responsibility credit.

Friday, December 13th – Issues Encountered in Mediation (WEBINAR)

- Join us for a discussion on some unique issues you may encounter during mediation, including the need to report to CPS/APS, capacity concerns, and other items. This webinar will be helpful for attorneys and mediators and is available at NO COST!
- This course is approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 1 hours, of which 0.25 hours will apply to legal ethics/professional responsibility credit.

Contact Kristi to sign up:

Kristi Thompson, Assistant Director, Thompson, Kristi <KThompson@lubbockcounty.gov

Texas Dispute Resolution System™ Office of Dispute Resolution for Lubbock County

806-775-1720 | 866-329-3522

TMCA'S 2024 SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

WHEN: Saturday, October 26, 2024, 8:25 AM to 5:00 PM Central

HOW: LIVE VIA ZOOM*

Current Credential holders, please click [here](#) to login and register.

Non-Credential holders, please click [here](#) to complete our online registration form.

Early Bird Registration fees (paid by 9/30/24):

1. \$100 for current Credential holders
2. \$125 for non-Credential holders

Registration fees after 9/30/24:

1. \$125 for current Credential holders

2. \$150 for non-Credential holders

For more information about our Symposium, please click [here](#)

[Mindspring](#)

Mindspring provides no-cost mental health education, support, and advocacy programs. All of Mindspring's programs feature evidence-based curriculum and are available to all community members. They have great webinars that are free!

Mission: "Empowering community members through mental health education, advocacy, and support"

<https://www.mindspringhealth.org/get-involved/webinars-and-events>



Family Mediation Training

Finished Basic Mediation Training?
Advanced Family Mediation is next. The training prepares you to handle mediations involving Family Law.

Sign up for our 30-hour training. Training valid throughout Texas. Class starts **October 3, 2024**. Attend all class dates **October 3, 4, 5, 10, and 11**.



Contact Central
Texas Dispute
Resolution Center

office@centexdrc.org
512-878-0382

Class fee of \$650