



# JUVENILE MEDIATION

## WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation is a service in which a neutral third party, known as a mediator, guides parties through a six-step conflict resolution process. It provides youth ages 6-17 an earlier opportunity for diversion and prevents juveniles from progressing through the criminal justice system.

The goal of the Juvenile Mediation Program is to offer both intervention and the prevention of future conflicts that arise at home, in school, or in the community.

The benefits of Mediation include:

- improving their interpersonal relationships
- decreasing school behavioral problems
- reducing recidivism
- resolving family issues that prevent them from successfully completing their terms of probation
- developing actionable plans
- modeling positive communication
- emphasizing accountability

## WHY IS MEDIATION AN EFFECTIVE EARLY INTERVENTION?

Juvenile mediation is a tailored service appropriate for a wider age range.

Through truancy mediation, undisciplined/ delinquency mediation, victim-offender mediation, and other restorative processes, juveniles will:

- participate in discussing and resolving their own negative behaviors
- learn to take responsibility for their actions and feelings
- be held accountable for their actions by having to face the person(s) with whom they are in conflict
- be diverted from the school-to-prison pipeline

### CONTACT US:

Website: [mrjc.us](http://mrjc.us)

23rd JD Juvenile Services: 336-977-3803

MRJC Main Office: 828-264-3040

# EXAMPLES OF REFERRALS

- Fighting
- Communicating Threats
- Inappropriate Physical Contact
- Bullying
- Family group conferencing
- Foster Parent(s) and Child
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Child
- Siblings/Foster Siblings
- Vandalism
- Underage drinking on school property
- Bringing weapons on school property
- Use of Prohibited Substance/Vaping or Tobacco products
- Defiant student
- Truancy

## WE CAN RECEIVE REFERRALS FROM:

- DJJ
- School systems
- Law enforcement
- DSS
- Parents and/or Guardians

## WHERE WILL MEDIATIONS TAKE PLACE?

Mediation services will be provided at private, confidential, and accessible locations such as the MRJC offices, in the courthouse, or any public school when appropriate. Meeting in person is available, as well as over video conferencing or the phone.



## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRINCIPLES

MRJC's programs are based on the principles of "restorative justice" — to rebuild and restore, rather than simply to punish and obtain retribution.

Restorative Justice asks the questions, "What harm was done?" and "What are the needs of the parties involved?" It helps both parties move forward, repairs the harm, rebuilds (or appropriately dissolves) relationships, and also humanizes participants beyond their "labels."

These benefits lead to a safer and more connected community, fosters reintegration, and creates resiliency.

