



Community Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) FAQ

Q: What are community dispute resolution programs (CDRPs)?

A: Community dispute resolution programs (CDRPs) are nonprofit organizations that offer free or low-cost dispute resolution services to Minnesotans. Employees or volunteers trained in dispute resolution serve as independent third parties to help parties voluntarily work through differences and seek mutually agreed upon solutions.

In Minnesota, All CDRPs must comply with [Minnesota Statute 494](#) and related operational guidelines. These rules and guidelines help ensure quality services for Minnesotans. Any organization in Minnesota that meets 494 requirements may become a CDRP.

Q: Why are CDRPs important?

A: CDRPs serve a unique and critical function in Minnesota because they:

- are free or low-cost
- provide services Statewide
- reduce the number of cases in the Court including cases involving youth and housing (landlord-tenant issues)
- create safer schools
- reduce parenting time disputes after divorce
- offer tailored services depending on the disputants' needs
- train volunteer mediators, increasing conflict resolution practice across the state
- provide interpretation and culturally-relevant practices to Minnesota's immigrant communities

Q: What services do CDRPs offer?

A: CDRPs support dispute resolution through a variety of services including mediation, facilitated dialogues, restorative practices, and training and skill-building. Each is described in more detail [here](#).

Q: Who do CDRPs serve?

A: CDRPs can serve anyone in Minnesota who has a dispute.

Q: What kinds of disputes do CDRPs handle? Are there disputes that CDRPs are not allowed to handle?

A: Issues range from neighbor property disputes, to conflict between extended family members, to resolving conflict between business owners, to helping to mediate parenting time for never-married parents and post-decree parenting time changes. While many disputes can be handled by CDRPs, they are not allowed to take on disputes involving violence against persons, any matter involving a person who has been adjudicated incompetent or relating to guardianship, conservatorship, or civil

commitment; any matter involving neglect or dependency or involving termination of parental rights or divorce mediations.

Q: Which organizations in Minnesota are CDRPs? How are they related to Community Mediation Minnesota?

A: Minnesota currently has six centers that are have 494 certification:

- [Conflict Resolution Center](#) (Minneapolis, St. Cloud, St. Cloud)
- [Community Mediation and Restorative Services](#) (New Hope)
- [Mediation and Conflict Solutions](#) (Rochester)
- [Dispute Resolution Center](#) (St. Paul)
- [Restorative and Mediation Practices](#) (Northfield)
- [Mediation and Restorative Services](#) (Blaine)

[Community Mediation Minnesota](#) is a nonprofit membership organization created in 2017 that serves to advocate for and coordinate collective work of Minnesota’s CDRPs.

Q: What areas of the state do CDRP services cover?

A: In-person services (mediation, training, facilitated dialogues, restorative practices) are provided in and around the locations listed above. Mediation services can be accessed remotely from anywhere in Minnesota using [remote mediations](#), which are coordinated by Community Mediation Minnesota.

Q: Do other states have CDRPs?

A: There are community mediation centers across the United States that are similar to the CDRPs in Minnesota. Nationally, most community mediation centers are non-profit entities. Although each center is unique, they tend to share the characteristics of utilizing volunteer mediators to provide low-cost services to their community and finding creative ways to resolve disputes without going to trial.

Q: How are CDRPs funded?

A: CDRP funding sources include: a biennial grant program jointly provided by the Minnesota Judicial Branch (“the Court”) and the Office of Collaboration and Dispute Resolution (MN Department of Administration); foundation grants; private grants; contracts with businesses, State government and local government; and nominal client fees.

Q: What is the impact of their work?

A: In 2021, the six CDRPs conducted 1522 mediations, served 2,798 people through training and outreach, and provided other ADR services to another 1,867 people. Parties accessed services from 77 of Minnesota’s 87 counties. Between 2020 and 2021, the number of mediations performed has doubled and is expected to grow. CDRPs have also resolved a record number of landlord/tenant disputes since job loss-related evictions climbed due to the 2019 pandemic.

More information about the CDRPs can be found here: [Community Dispute Resolution Programs \(mncourts.gov\)](#); [Minnesota Judicial Branch - ADR | Mediation \(mncourts.gov\)](#); [Community Mediation Minnesota | Is Mediation Right for You? \(communitymediationmn.org\)](#); [Minnesota State 494](#)

In 2021, Minnesota's Community Dispute Resolution Programs...

Received **762** referrals from Minnesota courts to provide accessible, free or low-cost dispute resolution services.

Served people in 77 of Minnesota's 87 counties

Hundreds of Minnesotans from all over the State access dispute resolution services every month.

"CMM's eviction mediation efforts have worked in Scott County. I believe this will work anywhere."

Judge Charles Webber,
Scott County

Conducted **1522** mediations

Served **1,867** through other dispute resolution processes

Delivered training and outreach to **2,798** people

Used **388** volunteer mediators to provide free and low-cost mediations

Connect with a CDRP to resolve a conflict in your family, neighborhood, community or organization.

<https://communitymediationmn.org/>
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