



Community Mediation Minnesota

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SF2233 & HF1215 Client Impact Stories

Rental Property Owner Story:

In November of 2022, we received an inquiry from a county law librarian. She had been contacted by a rental property owner who was seeking an alternative to filing an eviction on his renters, who had fallen several months behind on rent. I learned that the rental property owner, after immigrating to the United States, had saved up enough money to purchase his first home. Having experienced the difficulties of obtaining housing, he chose to buy a second home with the goal of renting out the first home – making housing more accessible to a worthy family. However, without the rent coming in, he was having trouble making the mortgage payments on both properties. In mediation, we learned that the renters were experiencing family hardships and the property owner’s compassion helped to shape a reasonable outcome for all parties. The agreement allowed the renters to stay in the home until after the holiday season and the property owner began receiving payments for the past due rent on the same day as mediation. By finding an agreeable solution for all, the parties completely avoided an eviction filing – saving money and time spent in court.

Avoiding court is always the goal, but we often mediate eviction matters in court.

Renter Story:

Ms. Johnson had an eviction hearing at the end of December of 2022, after spending much of the fall in the hospital and in a rehabilitation facility recovering from a traumatic brain injury that was the result of an injury sustained at work. In court, all parties agreed to participate in mediation. In mediation, Ms. Johnson was offered a safe space to explain her hardship. She, admittedly, needed time to speak slowly as the brain injury required extra processing time for information. Dialogue between the parties was respectful and compassionate and the parties were able to find a resolution that worked well for everyone. After mediation, Ms. Johnson reached out to CMM to express her gratitude. She said that as a Black woman who had spent her career serving others in a non-profit organization, she was feeling hurt by the eviction process that – before mediation – had left her feeling alone and vulnerable.

The positive outcomes from both stories are a result of CMM’s statewide expansion model. Unfortunately, by July of this year, there is currently no guarantee of funding to allow this work to continue. In one county alone, where we provide services, this would significantly impact (or reverse) the 89% success rate of eviction prevention.