

COMMUNITY MEDIATION UPPER SHORE, INC.
Phone 443-207-5159 Cecil Co. 410-810-9188 Kent & Queen Anne's

Mission Statement

The Mission of Community Mediation Upper Shore, Inc. (CMUS) is to provide accessible conflict resolution services through mediation, education, and training to promote respectful resolution of conflicts and disputes throughout Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne's counties in Maryland.

CMUS is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation offering services at no cost to community members. CMUS relies on funding through grants and donations from community members to provide services.

Mediation is Voluntary, Confidential, and Impartial

Our Programs

Volunteer Program

- CMUS trains community members who reflect the community's diversity to serve as volunteer mediators to offer Programs to the community.
- CMUS matches volunteer interests and skills to programs and activities.

Conflict Awareness Program

- CMUS offers an educational and interactive Conflict Awareness Program (CAP) to promote respectful dispute resolution to community members.
- CAP Programs are generally held in schools, detention centers, or as an educational component to other organizations education and training curriculums.

District Court, Pre-Trial & Day of Trial Mediation Program

- A CMUS partnership with Cecil County District Court
- Volunteers attend District Court and offers Same Day mediation to eligible participants.
- CMUS collects referrals from the Cecil County District Court and offers services to participants with eligible cases.

Family Court & Parenting Plan Mediation Program

- A CMUS partnership with Cecil County Family Court.
- Volunteers attend and offer same day mediation in Family Court as needed (generally at 9am on Tuesday mornings, 1-3 times per month).
- CMUS offers parenting plan mediation for child custody and access agreements for community members outside of the court system. These sessions are held at times and places convenient for participants. Agreements can be filed with the Family Court if the participants so choose.

Homeless Community Mediation Program

- A CMUS partnership with Meeting Ground, Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm, and the Paris Foundation.
- Volunteers visit locations at times convenient for staff and participants to offer services through group presentations and/or individual outreach. Our goal is to support these organizations in their efforts to end homelessness by addressing the conflict resolution needs of homeless individuals and families in Cecil County.

Re-Entry Mediation Program

- A CMUS partnership with the Cecil County Detention Center (CCDC), Community Corrections Division.
- Studies found 1 out of 3 people will return to incarceration within 3 years. When mediation is offered, recidivism rates are reduced to 1 out of 5 people. Pre-release mediation is paramount when planning a successful future.
- Volunteers visit the CCDC (generally, on Thursday afternoons 1-4 times per month, as needed) to meet incarcerated individuals to offer pre-release services. Re-Entry mediation is held in the CCDC at times convenient for the CCDC and participants.

Truancy Diversion Program

- A CMUS partnership with Cecil County Public Schools and Cecil County District Court.
- The pilot program serving Cecil County elementary schools proved successful last school year, prompting CCPS to seek expansion to include middle schools this year.
- CCPS also responded to our call to include mediation as part of their Truancy intervention process this year; offering mediation before charges are filed and before a student is guaranteed to fail the school year due to poor attendance.
- Volunteer mediators work with our Truancy Diversion Program Coordinator and attend Truancy Court (generally at 8am on the last Wednesday of each month) for same day mediation. Mediations are also scheduled at others times and locations convenient for participants.
- Our goals for early intervention with mediation: uncover and address issues resulting in truancy, increase attendance, improve academics, decrease the number of truancy court cases being filed in District Court.

Upper Shore State's Attorney Mediation Program (USSAMP)

- A partnership with the Cecil County State's Attorney's Office with CMUS serving as the Mediation Unit to the Cecil County State's Attorney's Office.
- CMUS collects referrals from the Cecil County State's Attorney's Office and offers services to participants with eligible cases.
- Mediation is scheduled at times and places convenient to participants.
- For more information:
 - USSAMP brochure
 - Visit website: <http://www.ccgov.org/government/state-s-attorney-s-office/mediation-unit>