

THE MEDIATION CENTER

Administered by Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority
Working in Cooperation with the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General
1 FENN STREET, 4th FLOOR – PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01201
(413) 443-7138 FAX (413) 443-8137 Website: www.bcrha.com

FREE COMMUNITY MEDIATION SERVICES

Cheshire Town Hall
80 Church St. P.O. Box 647
Cheshire, MA 01225

As a town hall in Berkshire County, you may encounter conflicts that affect the town, or have citizens experiencing conflicting situations. Knowing that disputes occur in everyday life, our Community Mediators are here to support and serve. Many disputants prefer to mediate their problems instead of engaging lawyers or leaving the decision to the courts. Conflict can be expensive, both in its emotional toll as well as in the potential cost of litigation.

Community Mediation offers disputants an opportunity to work out their issue on their own terms with the support of an impartial, third party mediator. The mediator will help the parties resolve the problem/dispute through facilitated dialogue. This is either done over the telephone with the mediator speaking in turn with both parties, or in face-to-face meetings with both parties. Either party can refuse to participate. However, when both parties agree to participate in mediation, the majority of cases are successful.

The Berkshire County Regional Housing and Mediation Program is located in Pittsfield and provides mediation to all of Berkshire County. Our Mediation Program is one of 15 Community Mediation Programs located throughout Massachusetts. We offer **free**, comprehensive, voluntary and confidential conflict intervention services. We are dedicated to helping individuals, schools, neighbors, family, elders, businesses, and community organizations resolve conflicts and increase their effective communications.

Our Center would also like to introduce **our newly created Agricultural Mediation Services Program that we offer in conjunction with the Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration (MOPC)**. The MOPC has recently provided a grant for our organization to offer mediation/dispute resolution services to farmers, growers, producers, neighbors, government, businesses, or other entities likely to be involved in agricultural disputes.

Please feel free to call or email me anytime to inquire about our services.

Kayla Wendling
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Providing dispute resolution programming; comprehensive housing counseling, including legal and educational counseling services, loss mitigation/anti-foreclosure counseling, homelessness prevention/tenancy preservation services and homelessness resolution and housing search assistance; and anti-poverty resources TO ALL BERKSHIRE COUNTY RESIDENTS.