

Patti J. Smith

Serving as the director and primary mediator for a rural community mediation program sealed my long time belief that no matter the conflict, it can be effectively and mutually satisfyingly resolved when those involved, work together for clearer understanding of the issues, the emotions and the direct/indirect impact they have on the disagreement. I believe that that is the very essence of the mediation process.



Mediation Experience

Currently I am in private practice in southeastern Ohio; providing mediation services, conflict coaching, education/training and faith-based peacemaking services.

I have mediated well over 2,400 disputes/conflicts since my career as a mediator began in 1996. Through programs supported by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Planning and the Ohio Supreme Court, I have mediated court and child/family serving agency and privately referred cases for Perry and Hocking Counties. I have mediated a wide variety of cases including: parent/child, custody/visitation, juvenile (truancy & unruly), family, divorce, school issues, child protection (abuse/neglect/dependency), victim/offender, small claims, neighborhood, business, guardianship, landlord/tenant, workplace, local government issues, civil matters, and others.

I have been an active special education mediator for the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Exceptional Children since 2004.

Affiliations and Community Work

I am on the founding board and past treasurer of the *Ohio Community Mediation Association* and a current member of the *Ohio Mediation Association*.

Dedicated to promoting strong partnerships between Perry County residents and our local government agencies' programs I am an active member of the PC MRDD Human Rights Committee, PC Juvenile Court's CASA Program and Drug Court, the PC Suicide Prevention Coalition, the Perry Housing Coalition, Transitions Domestic Violence Shelter, and the PC Suicide Prevention Coalition.

Past Experiences

I attended Golden West College in Huntington Beach, California majoring in criminal justice with special emphasis in child abuse/protection. While living in Southern California, I worked as the assistant to the Director and Founder of the *Foundation for Educational and Behavioral Therapy*.

I also worked with the *Orange County Victim/Witness Assistance Program* where I assisted victims of violent crime through the justice system in Southern California.

Personal

I am married, the mother of an adult daughter and the very proud grandmother of Annastassia. My husband and I live on a 90+acre farm in Southeastern Ohio.