



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 was enacted in January of 1996 to establish court-based alternative dispute resolution on a state-wide basis; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the actions of the legislature, there are now nine partially state-funded Community Mediation Centers in Tennessee, serving 26 counties; and

WHEREAS, more than 1500 cases are successfully resolved out of court each year by the Community Mediation Centers; and

WHEREAS, more than 5000 Tennesseans receive free or sliding-scale mediation services each year from Community Mediation Centers; and

WHEREAS, Rule 31 trained mediators provide over 2500 hours of pro bono mediation services per year through the Community Mediation Centers; and

WHEREAS, the Community Mediation Centers commit to provide mediation services at no cost or on a sliding scale and encourage early use of mediation to prevent violence or to reduce the need for court intervention; and

WHEREAS, these centers maintain high quality mediators by providing intensive, skill-based training, apprenticeships, continuing education, and ongoing evaluation of volunteer mediators; and

WHEREAS, these centers provide mediation and conflict resolution education to community members who reflect the community's diversity with regard to age, race, gender, ethnicity, income, education, and geographic location; and

WHEREAS, the state of Tennessee wishes to acknowledge the contribution of the Community Mediation Centers and encourage their further growth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March, 2018 as

Mediation Month

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this second day of February, 2018.

Governor

Secretary of State

