



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, mediation in Tennessee continues to grow and assist citizens and the courts in alternative dispute resolution; and

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

WHEREAS, as a result of Rule 31's promulgation, there are more than 1,200 Rule 31 mediators in Tennessee who have reported serving as conflict resolution professionals in thousands of mediations in 2019; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 there were 6,526 mediations reported by Rule 31 mediators with 4,285 (65.7%) fully resolved through mediation and 442 (6.8%) partially resolved; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly and the Administrative Office of the Courts support state-funded Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) centers; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee wishes to acknowledge the contribution of mediation and encourage its further growth; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020 mediators are gathering for conflict resolution training at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Association of Professional Mediators (TAPM) and presentation of the Grayfred Gray Public Service in Mediation Award by the Coalition of Mediation Awareness in Tennessee to Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Cornelia A. (Connie) Clark;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 2020 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 eighteenth day of February, 2020.

Bill Lee

Governor

Scott Bergitt

Secretary of State