



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

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

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

WHEREAS, the mediator is not a judge and does not make a decision or impose a solution on the dispute. Rather, the mediator helps those involved resolve the dispute themselves; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, there were more than 1,300 Rule 31 mediators in Tennessee who reported serving as conflict resolution professionals in 7,213 mediations with full resolution of the disputes in 4,669 cases; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly and the Administrative Office of the Courts support six 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, the Grayfred Gray Public Service in Mediation Award is presented yearly to an individual who has made innovative and lasting public service contributions through alternative dispute resolution in Tennessee;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 2022 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 seventh day of March 2022.

Bill Lee

Governor

Jeana King

Secretary of State