



Community  
Law & Mediation

# Community Law & Mediation

## Mediation Service



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# CLM

- Coolock Community Law Centre established in 1975 as a prototype law centre as part of campaign for civil legal aid.
- CLM mission is to empower individuals experiencing disadvantage through three strands of service provision:
  - i. information & education,
  - ii. legal advice & representation and
  - iii. mediation & conflict coaching.



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# CLM

- Seek wider impact through our Law Reform work and support for other advocacy organisations.
- Assist approx. 3,000 people per annum.
- In 2014, the name changed to CLM



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# CLM Northside

- Legal Advice through Thursday evening drop in clinics and specialised appt based clinics in family, employment and debt law.
- Catchment area-Dublin Bay North
- Also run a number of outreach clinics in Blanchardstown, Clondalkin and City Centre



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# CLM Northside

- Advocacy & Representation in the areas of Debt, Housing, Community Care, Employment, Equality and Social Welfare.
- No formal means test applied though service described as for clients who cannot afford a private solicitor.

# CLM Limerick

- The first community law centre to be established outside of Dublin.
- Catchment areas are those identified for regeneration and residents living in disadvantaged areas in Limerick



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# CLM Limerick

- Outreach Legal Advice Clinics in all areas of law delivered in the regeneration communities.
- Advocacy & Representation primarily in housing, social welfare, education.



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# Community Education

- Essential component of CLM's service to the community.
- Includes free community talks, QQI accredited courses, in house training and work with local schools.

# Law Reform & Resources

- Law Reform-Submissions & Roundtables
- Resources:
  - Irish Community Development Law Journal
  - Casebase
  - Membership
  - Information Guides



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# Mediation

- Set up in 2004 to provide an alternative dispute resolution process at community level.
- Free, confidential, non-judgmental service in North Dublin, Wicklow and Limerick.
- In 2016, CLM was involved in 97 Mediation Cases.

# What is Mediation?

- Aims to help people involved in a dispute reach an agreement that is acceptable to both sides.



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# Our Mediators

- CLM has a panel of 56 Mediators acting in a voluntary capacity.
- All are professionally trained & are members of the Mediators' Institute of Ireland.
- All are vetted by CLM, receive induction and undergo CPD & Reflective Practice.
- Co-Mediation model-2 mediators attend every mediation session.

# Role of the Mediator

- Mediators act as 'go between' to help re-open channels of communication.
- Mediators facilitate parties to explore possible solutions to their dispute.
- Mediators assist the parties in drawing-up a written agreements that state the terms and conditions upon which they have decided to resolve their dispute.



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# Mediation Process

- Party 1 approaches the Service or their details are provided by a referral agency e.g. the Gardai
- Party 2 is contacted by Party 1 or the Service.
- Once all parties involved agree to attend a mediation session they are assigned two mediators and given an appointment. We aim to set up the first meeting within 10 days of Party 2's agreement.



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# Mediation Process

- Each party meets with the mediator individually at the first session followed by a 2 hour group session.
- If possible, an interim agreement is drawn up at the end of the session and an agreement is made to meet for another session.
- Up to six sessions can take place and at the end, a final agreement is agreed.



# What is needed for Mediation?

- Each party must be willing to work to resolve their issues.
- Each party must be willing to discuss their issues and try to listen to the other party.



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# Types of Mediation

- a. Parental or Separating Couples Mediation –**  
on issues relating to children i.e. access, custody, guardianship, parenting plans and ancillary maintenance. We do not cover broader financial matters such as property, pensions, mortgages etc.



# Types of Mediation

- **Family Mediation** – Helps resolve disputes within families e.g. between siblings, in relation to grandparent visitation or in respect of elders and issues such as caregiving and living arrangements.



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# Types of Mediation

- **Community Mediation** – Helps resolve disputes between neighbours regarding noise, litter, anti-social behaviour, barking dogs and invasion of privacy.
- **Workplace Mediation** – involving small community organisations.



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# Conflict Coaching

- Conflict Coaching is offered to all parties. It is a structured, one to one service which aims to help parties develop the necessary skills to effectively engage in the mediation process.



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# Courts Initiative

- Since 2011, CLM have been involved with the Courts Initiative with the Dublin Circuit and District Civil Court.
- The purpose of this scheme is to encourage lay litigants to engage in mediation in relation to disputes before the Courts i.e. the judge will direct that the parties speak with the CLM mediators present who will arrange for onward referral to CLM if appropriate.

# Benefits of Mediation

- **Control** – Parties retain control over how they wish to resolve their disputes.
- **Empowerment**- All parties are empowered to come to an amicable agreement and to move forward with that agreement in place.
- **Voice**- Each Party will have an opportunity to voice concerns and to speak without interruption.
- **Flexibility** – there is more flexibility than in e.g. court which operates under strict rules.



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# Benefits of Mediation

- **Voluntary Process** – Mediation is a voluntary process. At any stage the parties, or indeed the mediator, can decide the mediation is not productive and stop the process.
- **Confidential** – All parties involved in mediation including the mediator, have to agree not to disclose information arising in mediation.
- **Speed** – Some disputes can be resolved in a matter of hours or day as opposed to months or even years in Court.
- **Relationship Building** – Mediation is designed to help the parties better understand each other.



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# For more information

Please call CLM on

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