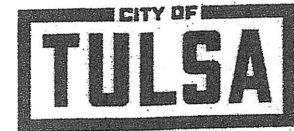


**EARLY SETTLEMENT CENTER FOR MEDIATION**  
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*FY 2027  
 \$12,000*

**EARLY SETTLEMENT PROGRAM SAVES TAXPAYERS MILLIONS**

There are two components of subject program:

**Mediation:** Pursuant to an American Bar Association grant, the Early Settlement program was established in Tulsa in 1982. The purpose was to allow persons the opportunity to settle their differences out of court through Mediation. Mediation sessions may be self-referred, community referred or judicially referred. In 1983, the Oklahoma Dispute Resolution Act was enacted to provide all Oklahomans "convenient access to dispute resolution proceedings which are fair, effective, inexpensive and expeditious."

**Settlement Conferences:** In 1990, Tulsa added a Settlement Conference component to offer a settlement opportunity prior to going to trial on District Court civil cases. All settlement conferences are judicially referred.

	Self or Community Referred	Judicially Referred	Total Cases filed	Total Cases Mediated/ Conducted	Savings to Taxpayers by avoiding jury trials*
Mediation	609	342	951	416	\$14,228,862*
Settlement Conferences	N/A	77	77	47	\$1,152,074*
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>\$15,380,936.*</b>

\*See Calculations next page.

**BENEFITS**

In examining FY 2025's statistics, with respect to the two different programming components, mediation and settlement conferences, there were 1,028 cases filed for mediation and settlement conferences. On the mediation side, there were 951 community, family and child permanency mediations filed; for settlement conferences, there were 77 lawsuits referred. Participants numbered 2,613 in community, family and child permanency mediations and 618 in settlement conferences for a total of 3,231 participants.

City of Tulsa residents and Tulsa County taxpayers reap sizeable benefits, especially when one considers that of the workforce of sixty-six (66), sixty-three (63) are volunteers, providing their considerable time and talents for free. This group is comprised of 2 full & 1 part-time staff, 31 mediator volunteers and 32 adjunct settlement judge (ASJ) volunteers.

## MONETARY BENEFITS TO OKLAHOMANS

Cost-benefit analysis demonstrates just how much bang for the buck Early Settlement delivers through the mediation and settlement conference components of this program.

*Had those cases filed for mediation ended up going to trial during FY 2025 and had been slated for 3 day trials, here's what would have been the result:*

3 day trials (juror cost savings realized) results in: \$14,962. (court personnel costs + juror costs) x 951 cases = \$14,228,862.

*Had those cases seeking settlement conferences ended up going to trial during FY 2025 and had been slated for 3 day trials, the results would have been:*

3 day trials (juror cost savings realized) results in: \$14,962. (court personnel costs + juror costs) x 77 settlement conferences = \$1,152,074.

## CONCLUSION

Therefore, Early Settlement helps taxpayers realize potential combined savings of \$15,380,936M or (\$14,228,862 + \$1,152,074) total in transaction costs from mediation and settlement conferences.

## Departmental Summary/Mission Statement

### Early Settlement Center for Mediation

#### Our Mission is:

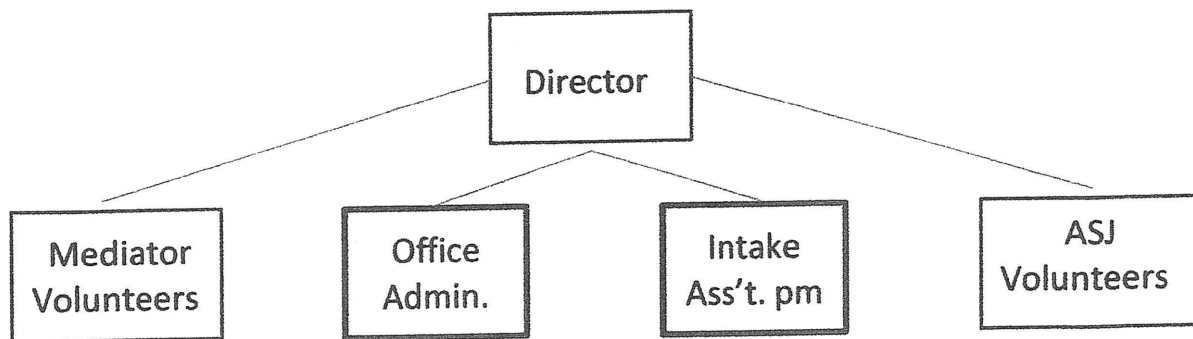
To provide high quality conflict resolution services to the courts and residents of northeast Oklahoma that are fair, effective, inexpensive and expeditious, as an alternative to traditional litigation.

#### What does Early Settlement Mediation and Settlement Conferences do?

- Provides court-sponsored mediation, conciliation and settlement conference services for the metropolitan Tulsa area including, but not limited to: Tulsa, Creek and Okmulgee counties.
- Types of cases include: Family & Divorce, Business Litigation, Real Estate, Consumer/Merchant, Disability-related, Probate, Landlord/Tenant, Employment, Breach of Contract, Nuisance, Trespass, Discrimination, Harassment, Adult Guardianship & Child Permanency.
- Recruits and trains volunteer mediator candidates from the community-at-large as well as the legal community in accordance with the Supreme Court of Oklahoma's chosen model of facilitative mediation.
- Mentors mediator candidates throughout the certification process.
- Provides mock mediation demonstrations and/or speakers to update civic groups, churches, international visitor delegations, realtors' offices, university classes and military.

# EARLY SETTLEMENT CENTER FOR MEDIATION

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



\* Mediator & Adjunct Settlement Judge Volunteers number approximately 63 who are serving the program gratuitously.

Paid staff = 2.5 positions.

	MONTH	SUMMARY			YEAR	FY	2025	SUMMARY	
Mediation Cases Filed Involving Parties Out-of-Tulsa									
City	Agreement		No Agreement	Resolved on Contact		No Show		On Hold	TOTAL
Adair	0		0	0		0		0	0
Barnsdall	0		0	0		0		0	0
Bartlesville	2		2	2		3		0	9
Beggs	1		0	2		4		0	7
Bixby	7		6	8		9		0	30
Blanchard	0		0	0		0		0	0
Bristow	2		1	0		0		0	3
Broken Arrow	32		9	22		18		0	81
Catoosa	1		0	1		3		0	5
Checotah	0		2	0		0		0	2
Chelsea	0		0	1		0		0	1
Chouteau	0		0	0		1		0	1
Claremore	1		6	6		2		0	15
Cleveland	1		1	1		1		0	4
Collinsville	0		2	2		3		0	7
Coweta	2		1	4		0		0	7
Coyle	0		0	0		0		0	0
Cushing	0		1	0		0		0	1
Dougherty	0		0	0		0		0	0
Edmond	0		0	0		0		0	0
Enid	0		0	0		0		0	0
Foyil	0		0	0		0		0	0
Fairfax	0		0	0		0		0	0
Fairview	0		0	0		0		0	0
Glenpool	4		2	1		1		0	8
Grove	0		0	1		1		0	2
Guthrie	0		0	0		0		0	0
Haskell	0		1	1		0		0	2
Henryetta	0		2	2		0		0	4
Hominy	0		0	3		1		0	4
Hulbert	0		0	0		0		0	0
Hulbert	0		0	0		0		0	0
Inola	1		0	1		0		0	2
Jenks	9		5	1		1		0	16
Kellyville	0		0	0		0		0	0
Kiefer	0		0	1		0		0	1
Kiefer	0		0	0		0		0	0
Krebs	0		0	0		0		0	0
Lawton	1		0	0		0		0	1
Lawton	1		0	0		0		0	1
Locust Grove	0		0	0		1		0	1
Locust Grove	0		0	0		1		0	1
Mannford	1		0	1		0		0	2
Mannford	1		0	1		0		0	2
McAlester	0		0	0		2		0	2
McAlester	0		0	0		2		0	2
Meeker	0		0	1		0		0	1
Meeker	0		0	1		0		0	1
Morris	1		1	0		0		0	2
Morris	1		1	0		0		0	2
Mounds	1		1	0		2		0	4

	MONTH	SUMMARY	YEAR	FY	2025	SUMMARY
<b>Mediation Cases Filed Involving Parties Out-of-Tulsa</b>						
Muskogee	1	0	1	1	0	3
Mustang	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nowata	0	1	0	2	0	3
Oakhurst	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ochelata	0	0	0	1	0	1
Oilton	0	0	0	0	0	0
Okemah	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oktaha	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oklahoma City	2	3	2	1	0	8
Okmulgee	9	3	2	2	0	16
Oologah	0	0	1	2	0	3
Owasso	14	1	30	44	0	89
Pawhuska	0	0	1	0	0	1
Perkins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ponca City	1	0	0	0	0	1
Porter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pryor	0	0	2	2	0	4
Rose	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salina	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sand Springs	5	2	22	16	0	45
Sapulpa	6	2	5	16	0	29
Seminole	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skiatook	3	1	1	2	0	7
Sperry	0	2	1	0	0	3
Stigler	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stillwell	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stroud	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tahlequah	1	0	1	0	0	2
Talala	0	0	1	0	0	1
Vera	0	0	0	0	0	0
Verdigris	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vinita	1	0	0	1	0	2
Wagoner	2	0	0	1	0	3
Warner	0	0	0	0	0	0
Out of State	16	7	4	7	0	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>482</b>