



Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Nature of Dispute** \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to participate in mediation at the Dispute Resolution Center of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties. I understand that the purpose of mediation is to help participants discuss their dispute and, when possible, develop a solution that is acceptable to all parties.

**Voluntariness & Self Determination**

I understand that my participation in mediation is voluntary and that I may withdraw from mediation at any time, as may any other participant. I understand that although courts may refer parties to attend a mediation session, parties remain free to accept or to reject any proposed solutions and are not required to reach an agreement.

**Non-Parties**

I understand that as a party to the dispute I may consult an attorney or other support person to assist me during the mediation, and I further understand that I may bring a copy of an agreement to an attorney or other support person for that individual's advice before I sign the agreement. I also understand that I may invite individuals to attend the mediation for the purpose of providing additional information to the participants and mediators. However, I understand that the attendance and participation of any non-parties, in mediation, **must be by the mutual consent of all parties.**

**Confidentiality**

I have been informed that mediation is a confidential process. Under New York State law, communications made during mediation provided by this center may not be introduced in court by the mediators or the parties, except in very limited circumstances-outlined below. All statements, memoranda, work products, notes, and the center's case files are confidential and are not admissible in court.

**Exceptions to Confidentiality**

**Child Abuse:** I understand that evidence of child abuse is not confidential and may be reported by the center to the appropriate authorities.

**Agreements:** I understand that each party is free to enter into either a verbal or written agreement, as well as to reject any potential agreement. If we decide to create a written document that reflects the terms of our agreement, I also understand and agree that this written agreement is not confidential (If it is a Family Court Agreement) and any party may submit the document as evidence of our agreement in court. I understand that the agreement might be legally binding on us if a judge concludes that it is enforceable.

**Court- Referred Cases:** I understand that the courts may refer cases to the Dispute Resolution Center of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties and I agree that the center may provide the following information to a court that referred my case to mediation:

- If a mediation was held and if so, the date that this mediation occurred.
- The parties' request, if any, for additional time to mediate.
- The outcome of the mediation session, including a copy of the participants' family court agreement, if one is reached.

I also acknowledge that I have received the Dispute Resolution Center's "Welcome to Mediation" information sheet, which explains the mediation process, my rights and obligations, that I have read it (or had it read to me) and understand it's contents. By my signature below, I agree to participate in the mediation process in good faith and agree to be bound by the above terms.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_