Community Mediation Services of St. Louis

Agreement to Mediate

The parties in mediation acknowledge that the mediators have read aloud and explained this Agreement to Mediate and agree to the following:

- We (the parties) understand that Community Mediation Services of St. Louis (CMS), which provides the mediators, is a not-for-profit organization that is not affiliated with any governmental agency.
- We understand that neither CMS nor the mediators will keep any notes or records following the mediation other than the Agreement to Mediate and the Mediated Agreement. No electronic recording of any kind will take place either by the mediators or the parties.
- We understand that copies of the Agreement to Mediate and any agreement reached will be provided to the referring agency.

Voluntary
- Mediation is a voluntary process. We have chosen to participate in the process and may choose to leave the conversation at any time.

Role of Mediators
- The mediators' role is to help communication happen between the participants. The mediators will not give advice or take sides.
- The mediation is confidential and the mediators will not share anything that is said during the session with the following exception: CMS mediators will report statements that could be considered as serious threats or reference of abuse to persons.

Mediation Process
- The purpose of mediation is to create an opportunity for parties to communicate constructively. To that end, we agree:
  - We will listen to each other and try to reach a fair understanding regarding the complaint(s).
  - We will not interrupt each other. Everyone will have an opportunity to speak.
  - We will not use name-calling or abusive language.
- Mediators or participants may request a separate meeting. Mediators will meet with each party separately and their conversations will be kept confidential from the other party.
- The parties agree not to involve CMS, its mediators, its staff, in any legal proceedings whatsoever.

Participants Signatures: **Participants Signatures:**

_____   _____
Date _____   Date _____

_____   _____
Date _____   Date _____

Mediator: _____   **Mediator:** _____
Date: _____   Date _____

Observer: _____   Date _____