

## June Newsletter

*As we move into the final month of spring, the Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic is transitioning between annual contracts with the Department of Commerce. It remains a great pleasure to work with Washington State offices, and we are grateful for the support of our clients and partners from across the entire state.*



## Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic -Three Decades of Resolving Disputes-

### Dispute Resolution Grows in Washington State

A few months ago the Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic celebrated its 32nd Birthday in Spokane. Fulcrum has been serving the people of the immediate area, and individuals on a national basis, resolving disputes through mediation. On December 3, 1993, the organization received its official 501(3)C designation from the Internal Revenue Service. The Spokane County Board of Commissions authorized the facility as an official 7.75 RCW dispute resolution center. Fulcrum has served the local community, handling nearly 9,500 cases and settling just under 95% of all disputes.

### Community Problem Solving

The Fulcrum organization has dealt with all types of community problem solving in its decades of existence. Today, individual caseloads may provide services assisting with divorce asset division, parenting plan development between parents of all ages and their child or children,

business asset division situations, sexual harassment complaints, demotions within a business structure, or farm contracts, lease obligations, and farm succession to name a few. Historically, the mediation log of case types is varied, typically confrontational, and requiring the expertise of a professional qualified certified mediator.

### Mediation Structure

The Fulcrum organization prides itself in its use of interest-based mediation; focusing on the needs of the parties to reach resolution. Every mediation must deal with 1. what are the issues, 2. what are the positions of the parties, and 3. what are their interests or needs. Many individuals in disputes are not able to articulate what they truly need for resolution. The Fulcrum approach delves into what the parties need for resolution. The organization may have parties in the same room to discuss their issues and their needs, or the firm may have parties who prefer shuttle mediation where individuals are in different rooms. Mediations conducted by Zoom are becoming more commonplace.

### Expansion of Service

While based in Spokane, the Fulcrum mediation firm provides services to agricultural personnel and owners in the State of Washington, Idaho, and Alaska through a contract with the United States Department of Agriculture. Additionally, services are provided statewide to the Washington State Personnel Review Board, and to the Department of Commerce through contracts with each of those entities.

### No problem too big or too small

A historical analysis of the dollar values involved in Fulcrum mediations over the years shows that the smallest value stemmed from a dispute between two young males over a \$10.00 used video game, whereas the largest dollar value was a \$24 million issue involving a Canadian mine.

For mediation services please call  
Lauren at 509-838-2799.

PEACE BEGINS WITH A  
**SMILE**



## SAVE ONE ISSUES APP GUIDELINES

The SAVE ONE Sexual Exploitation Prevention Program continues to hold classroom and community sessions to work with individual students and parents to prevent sexual exploitation situations which may lead to sexual trafficking. The program released the following guidelines for parents regarding allowing children to use many of the apps available for today's young people. This serves as a reminder that apps have benefits in usage, but there is the potential for harm. The following should apply:

- Set Parental Controls in all Apps and on all Devices
- Turn off Location Sharing
- Set All accounts, apps, and devices to private
- Never share personal information
- Be aware, and understand online scams, risks, and threats
- Make sure children understand they should only chat online with people that they know in real life
- If someone is threatening your child or someone you know, call local enforcement
- Be careful with sharing identifying factors in the backgrounds of posts or live broadcasts
- Know that AI can voice clone and create anything with anyone's facial geometry
- Recognize that AI generated content can be used to cause abuse/harm
- Understand the dangers of sharing or sending pictures, and/or sharing videos

**STAY SAFE, BECOME AWARE, BE  
VIGILANT, AND MAKE THEM  
EDUCATED**

## June Mediation Training Offered

Fulcrum is pleased to announce that there is still space available to attend its 40-hour basic mediation training course in the month of June. The course will be June 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and July 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the organization's office in Room 206 at 1212 North Washington. The training is designed for individuals who wish to develop professional mediation skills. The basic requirement for all professional mediators in the State of Washington is the basic 40-hour course. Fulcrum first taught a basic course in 1995. The course provides attorneys with hourly credits for continuing education in both the general area of law and in the ethics portion as required by the State Bar Association. There is a cost of \$575.00 for the course. Interested parties may contact Gayle Cooper at the Fulcrum Offices for questions and registration.

## Low-income Assistance for Mediation

This past month, Fulcrum received approval to provide additional Access and Visitation grant dollars to low-income individuals utilizing mediation or supervised visitation services through the organization. Fulcrum has provided access and visitation dollars for a number of years for individuals who find the costs of mediation or supervised visitation slightly out of reach. Due to the basic economic conditions in Eastern Washington, and rising costs for food, gas, and other necessities, the local program has changed allocation formulas to provide for greater assistance. Questions concerning grant assistance may be referred to the organization's intake specialist. The application process is rather easy. Questions concerning current income levels and documentation of current employment is all that are required.

## New Webpage

The Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic webpage has been updated over the last month in the hopes of facilitating easier usage by current and potential clients.

A visit to the site will provide easier access to all department



details, specific designs and information on the SAVE ONE portal developed for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and new colors to assist in making the web page content easier to read. The webpage is constantly updated with new dates for training sessions, information that is important for clients to know, and documents detailing special events involving the Fulcrum staff.

## Business Courses

Summer months in Spokane appear to be good months for offering business courses to area businesses for personnel's professional growth. The Fulcrum staff has been invited to a number of businesses this summer to discuss some issues concerning dispute resolution in the workplace, sexual harassment laws in the State of Washington, and office management. It appears that July and August are the months when employers believe that some of their employees have additional time and need for such classes.

## Behind the Newsletter

If you are reading this, you should know that our employee Kiata is the one who is responsible for the newsletter's content, looks, and distribution date. Staff believes she deserves a great deal of credit for keeping everyone informed, and keeping the process on schedule.





## Welcome to June, From Haven

Can you believe it is June already? Where does the time go? June is a busy month in the Interchange; we have more offsites with the warmer weather, more people are eating outside on the picnic tables, and Father's Day is in the middle of the month. I know every father will feel special as he is reminded of the love and care from each and every one of his children.

## Family Time Supervisor Roles Change

June is the month when some family time supervisors get new roles! New families completing intakes for supervised visits will spend time with Bethany who has been promoted to do Intakes. You may notice that there are more toys and books available as Josephine and Isabella have undertaken the task of providing more and better items for family enjoyment. Finally, Ti has agreed to work specifically on keeping our rooms safe and clean.

## Off-site Questions

There have been a couple of changes to the Interchange off-site policies. The new rule is that off-sites are allowed for the visiting parent and their child or children in the absence of Court order preventing off-sites. Children involved in off-sites will always be under the watchful eye of a trained observational and documentation specialist. Off-site allowance documentation will be determined during intakes.

## Thank You Local Merchants

There are a number of great family-oriented services within walking distances of the Interchange facility. A new member of the Interchange staff has been out and about in the local community to secure specialty coupons donated by various businesses for our interchange clients. The coupons are available in the front office area beginning the first of June. All of us involved with the Interchange say



## Everyone Should Have a Haven Sticker

Stickers featuring the Interchange Mascot, Haven, are still available in our office. Every supporter of the Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic should have a Haven sticker for their home or office. There is no charge for the stickers.

## Children Can Be Clumsy

If a child should fall, scrape a knee, or need a simple band-aid, the Interchange documentation and observation staff is there to provide assistance. Our observers should be the first to ask if you need help with your child. Also, please remember that incidents of this type are documented in your visitation notes.

## Did You Know?

More than 50% of parents who use the Fulcrum Interchange have used those services for more than a year. The Interchange has officially surpassed a milestone, currently serving 100 active families each month in the community.

## THE FULCRUM INSTITUTE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CLINIC:

**Phone Number:** (509) 838-2799  
**Website:** [www.fulcrumdispute.org](http://www.fulcrumdispute.org)  
**Questions:** Call us today

