

LIVE AT PEACE MINISTRIES

Information Regarding Conciliation Services

Conflict is a result of desires that battle in the human heart (James 4:1). The goal at Live at Peace Ministries ("LAPM") is to help others be transformed into the likeness of Christ by promoting peace with God, others, and internally. We are committed to help resolve conflict and encourage peace in a way that glorifies God and focuses on the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The conciliation process is based on biblical principles that promote understanding, repentance, love, personal responsibility, justice, and reconciliation.

Fees. A non-refundable filing fee of \$150 is required to open a case and begin the process. The fee for pre-mediation case management and conflict coaching, as well as mediation services, varies depending on the number of parties and non-parties participating in the conciliation process, the conciliators involved in providing services, the location of the conciliation services, and the amount of services provided. A detailed estimate is provided to the parties for their review and approval. LAPM is committed to providing high quality services regardless of the parties' ability to pay and will explore reduced costs and alternative payment options with the parties. A refundable retainer is required prior to the scheduling of conciliation services.

Services. There are several types of conciliation services offered by LAPM. First, effective case management ensures that all logistical issues are handled on a timely and effective basis. The case manager coordinates the pre-mediation conflict coaching sessions for all parties and non-parties to help prepare everyone involved for a productive reconciliation process. The case manager also helps the parties select the conciliation team (a minimum of two people) that best meets their unique needs. Case management, conflict coaching, and mediation services are all a necessary part of LAPM's conciliation process.

Biblical Basis. We believe that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life and therefore base the message, methods and manner of our services on scriptural principles. For a description of the principles we embrace, see the *Frequently Asked Questions* about Christian Conciliation available at the Peacemaker Ministries website (www.peacemaker.net).

Not Legal Representation or Professional Counseling. Christian conciliation may be used to resolve legal disputes and to deal with personal issues. Even so, conciliators do not provide people with the kind of legal advice/advocacy or counseling services they would obtain if they hired an attorney or professional counselor. Instead of representing one person against another or providing counseling to one party or another, we work with and for all the people in a dispute to help them reach a mutually satisfactory agreement regarding their dispute(s). This limitation applies to all conciliators, including those who happen to be attorneys and/or professional counselors. Therefore, if parties are concerned about their legal rights or wish to receive professional counseling, they are encouraged to consult with an independent attorney or professional counselor.

Our Commitment to Confidentiality. Confidentiality is an important aspect of the conciliation process, and LAPM carefully guards the information entrusted to us. To ensure that that parties receive consistent counsel and support, however, LAPM needs to be able to discuss the conflict with parties' attorneys, if they have one, with appropriate leaders of their church, if they belong to or attend one, with all non-parties attending the conciliation process, and with all LAPM staff who may be providing services in any capacity. Furthermore, we may need to divulge information to appropriate civil authorities as required by law. For more information, see Rule 16 of the *Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation* found at the Peacemaker Ministries website (www.peacemaker.net).

Your Commitment to Confidentiality. You must agree not to discuss our communications with people who do not have a necessary interest in the conciliation process. In addition, you must agree to treat all communications in this process, written and verbal, including the Memorandum of Understanding (the written document outlining the parties' agreement reached through mediation, unless all parties agree to make their agreement legally binding), and all dealings with LAPM in regard to this dispute, as settlement negotiations which means they will be inadmissible in court and cannot be used as or for the purpose of obtaining legal discovery. Furthermore, you must agree that you will not try to force any conciliator to divulge information acquired during the conciliation process or to testify in any legal proceeding.

LAPM is a Training Center. Because of LAPM's unique services, individuals pursuing certification as Christian conciliators often contract with LAPM to attend and observe conciliation services. Student observers are carefully screened and formally commit to the highest levels of confidentiality. Your service provider will discuss with you the feasibility of having observers attend your conciliation sessions.

Follow-Up. A conciliation process often leaves the participants in a vulnerable and exhausted state. Upon completion of conciliation services, we encourage you to take several days to rest and recover, and then contact LAPM to initiate or discuss how we might further serve you.