



news

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Third Judicial District preparing volunteer mediation program

TRINIDAD, Colo. – Courts in Las Animas County are seeking volunteer mediators for a pilot program that will offer mediation in landlord-tenant disputes to possibly resolve cases outside the courtroom.

Volunteer mediators will work directly with individuals who are not represented by attorneys and who are involved in a landlord-tenant dispute in the civil court system in Las Animas County. Volunteer mediators, who are not required to be attorneys, will not provide legal advice, but rather will, under supervision of the court's program coordinator, facilitate a mediation conversation between parties in hopes of reaching a resolution. If no resolution is reached, the normal court procedure would continue.

Volunteers will need to pass a criminal background check and participate in a four-hour training program before the volunteer-mediation program begins later this fall. The training will cover topics including court procedures and rights of tenants and landlords, basic mediation skills and de-escalation techniques.

For more information, contact Susanne van der Meer at susanne.vandermeer@judicial.state.co.us or 719-497-8282.