



**ELDER MEDIATION:
A process for families dealing with long-term care issues**

Long-term care is a serious community issue on Maui, but families feel the impact most. When a member of the family falls ill or requires special care, often there is no plan in place for how to address it. Suddenly, uncomfortable questions arise such as: “Who is going to take care of him or her? Who is going to pay for it? What is the best way to provide care for a loved one?”

Many families find it difficult to answer these tough questions. Often discussions are delayed until there is a crisis. As a result, families are torn apart, lawsuits get filed and our aged loved ones are caught in the middle.

Mediation Services of Maui is teaming with the County of Maui’s Office on Aging to address this emerging need. Just as in regular mediation, parties meet with a neutral third person who manages the process and helps parties come to a mutually agreeable solution. With Elder Mediation, parties also receive the assistance of a community professional who can answer questions and make referrals.

Aging is natural. Looking for assistance as we age is natural. It’s helpful when our families are working harmoniously with community supports to get us the help we need. There are creative ways for families to come together to make a plan for an aging person and that is why Elder Mediation was developed.

Elder mediation gives families a chance to discuss solutions, mend relationships and avoid costly litigation. MSM needs funding to strengthen this program to make sure all families in need can be served. Donors may designate their gift to be used specifically for the Elder Mediation Program. Please give generously as all donations are 100% tax-deductible.



Mediation Services of Maui (MSM) has written a grant to the Hawaii Justice Foundation and has received funding for a Program Director position. Former MSM Executive Director Claudia Wahl has been hired for this position. Elder Mediation is one of the important programs Ms. Wahl is promoting. For more information, call 244-5744 or visit the website at www.mauimmediation.org.