



# GCRS Government Conflict Resolution Services

Government Conflict Resolution Services (GCRS) is a program offered by the Supreme Court of Ohio to provide flexible and practical assistance in resolving and preventing conflict among public officials on various matters including, but not limited to, budget issues, public records requests and other organizational issues, without court involvement.

## Services Offered

### Neutral Evaluation

A process in which the parties to a dispute present their claims or defenses, and describe the principal evidence on which their claims or defenses are based, to a neutral third party who then shares his/her impressions about the strengths and weaknesses of each matter.

### Mediation

A process in which a neutral third party, called a mediator, helps the parties communicate and negotiate with each other to help them reach a voluntary agreement regarding their dispute. The mediator helps the parties clarify their positions and interests, identify underlying concerns, and create practical solutions for resolving their dispute.

### Facilitation

A process that focuses on the tasks needed to run a productive and impartial meeting. In facilitation, a neutral party (the facilitator) moderates discussions by ensuring the fluid and orderly exchange of information and ideas from all participants. Facilitation is primarily concerned with assisting individuals in refining their communication and organizational skills so that they may learn to work more efficiently with one another in a group setting.

### What Types of Disputes does GCRS Address?

GCRS can assist in the resolution of any conflict involving public officials at the state, county, or local levels of government. Examples of disputes that may benefit from GCRS include: fiscal, budget, operations management, (planning, logistics, materials, risk management, internal controls, organizational design), public records, policy (administrative rule, internal procedures), facilities maintenance, and zoning.

### Why Should I Use GCRS?

Conflict resolution processes, such as those offered through GCRS, are powerful tools that can be used to clarify communications, build stronger working relationships and reach consensus. Public officials have found that involving an impartial third party is an effective way to reach agreement and prevent disputes from escalating into unproductive, contentious impasses.

### Is it Confidential?

It depends. In general, assistance provided through GCRS is confidential. However, certain public bodies or officers may be subject to Ohio's Open Meetings Act. Under such circumstances, GCRS services would not be confidential.

### How Much Does it Cost?

GCRS is provided at NO COST to public officials.

### Who Selects the Neutral?

Dispute Resolution Section staff will engage an appropriate third-party neutral after speaking with the parties and/or their respective representatives.

### Where is GCRS Conducted?

Dispute Resolution Section staff will work with you to determine a location that is agreeable and convenient for all participants.

## Get Started with GCRS TODAY!

GCRS is provided through **The Supreme Court of Ohio Dispute Resolution Section**

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