THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

GCRS Government Conflict Resolution Services

THE GCRS PROCESS

1. **Request for GCRS.** Requests can be made by filling out a GCRS Request for Services form and submitting it electronically through the GCRS website at Request for Services » Supreme Court of Ohio or contacting the Dispute Resolution Section (DRS) by telephone at 614.387.9420 or by email at DisputeResolution@sc.ohio.gov.

2. **Confidential Conversation with Requester.** DRS has a confidential conversation with the requester about the nature of the dispute and the names of the others involved.

3. **Eligibility Determination.** DRS confirms that the individuals involved are county or local public officials and that the dispute involves a public matter or impacts the ability to perform official duties.

4. **Confidential Conversation with Other Potential Participants.** DRS has a confidential conversation with the other potential participants to determine their interest and willingness to participate in GCRS.

5. **Selection of Dispute Resolution Process.** DRS confers with participants to determine which dispute resolution process (mediation, neutral evaluation, or facilitation) best suits their needs and whether the process will be conducted virtually or in-person.

6. **Confidentiality of Process.** DRS talks with the participants about confidentiality, any limitations on confidentiality, and their preferences regarding the confidentiality of the process.

7. **Assignment of Impartial Conflict Resolvers.** DRS selects impartial conflict resolvers taking into consideration the subject matter, any conflicts of interest and preferences of the participants.

8. **Scheduling.** The participants and the conflict resolvers schedule the sessions. If the process is being conducted in-person, the participants also agree on a location.

9. **Agreement to Participate.** Prior to the commencement of the first session, the participants sign an agreement to participate in the process. If the process is confidential, the participants also sign a confidentiality agreement.

10. **Agreement.** If an agreement is reached, a written memorandum of agreement is prepared and signed by all participants. Each participant receives a signed copy of the memorandum of agreement.

11. **Outcome Report.** At the conclusion of the process, the conflict resolver provides DRS with the outcome of the process. The outcome report only discloses whether the participants engaged in the process, who participated in the process, and whether the matter was resolved. The outcome report does not give information about the substance of any agreements or issues discussed during the conflict resolution process.