
NOT AVAILABLE ON LINE

ANNOTATION:

DESIGN: During a two year period, 1984-85, over a thousand cases were referred to the Winnipeg Mediation Services for intervention. The bulk of these referrals were for purposes of diversion from the tradition court processing. Offenders were typically first time offenders. Fifty-eight percent had crimes against persons. There had to be an identifiable victim. In most cases, offender and victim knew each other. Mediations were typically conducted by two volunteer mediators. The report also contains useful information regarding the process of mediation and the use of volunteer mediators.

PARTICIPATION RATES: Forty-five percent of the cases referred to mediation actually resulted in such a meeting. Nearly 40% of the victims refused to participate.

OUTCOMES AND RESTITUTION: Of those mediated, eighty-eight percent reached an agreement. In 81% of the agreements, the charges were dropped; fifty-one percent established cooperative relations, and 37% involved the transfer of money. Two or more meetings were needed to reach agreement in 11% of the cases.

REASONS AND SATISFACTION: A smaller sample of 112 (45 respondents and 67 complainants) yielded perception and satisfaction data. Avoiding court was the principle reason supplied by both groups (31% of respondents and 39% of complainants) for choosing to participate. Ninety-one percent of victims and 84% of offenders felt that they had good or excellent service. Ninety-seven percent of the offenders and 88% of victims expressed satisfaction with the agreements. Leading positive responses included: 1) got stories straight/talked it out; 2) informal friendly atmosphere; 3) helped resolve differences. Negative assessments included: 1) enforcement of agreement not provided; 2) biased in favor of other party; 3) no follow-up. Over 80% of victims and offenders indicated that they would participate in mediation again under similar circumstances.