

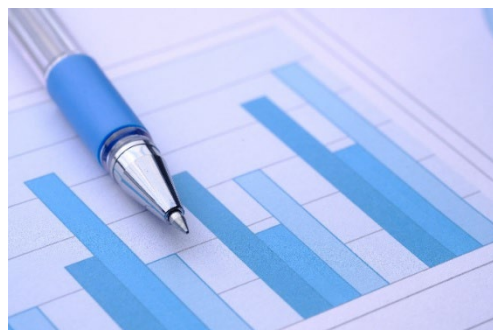


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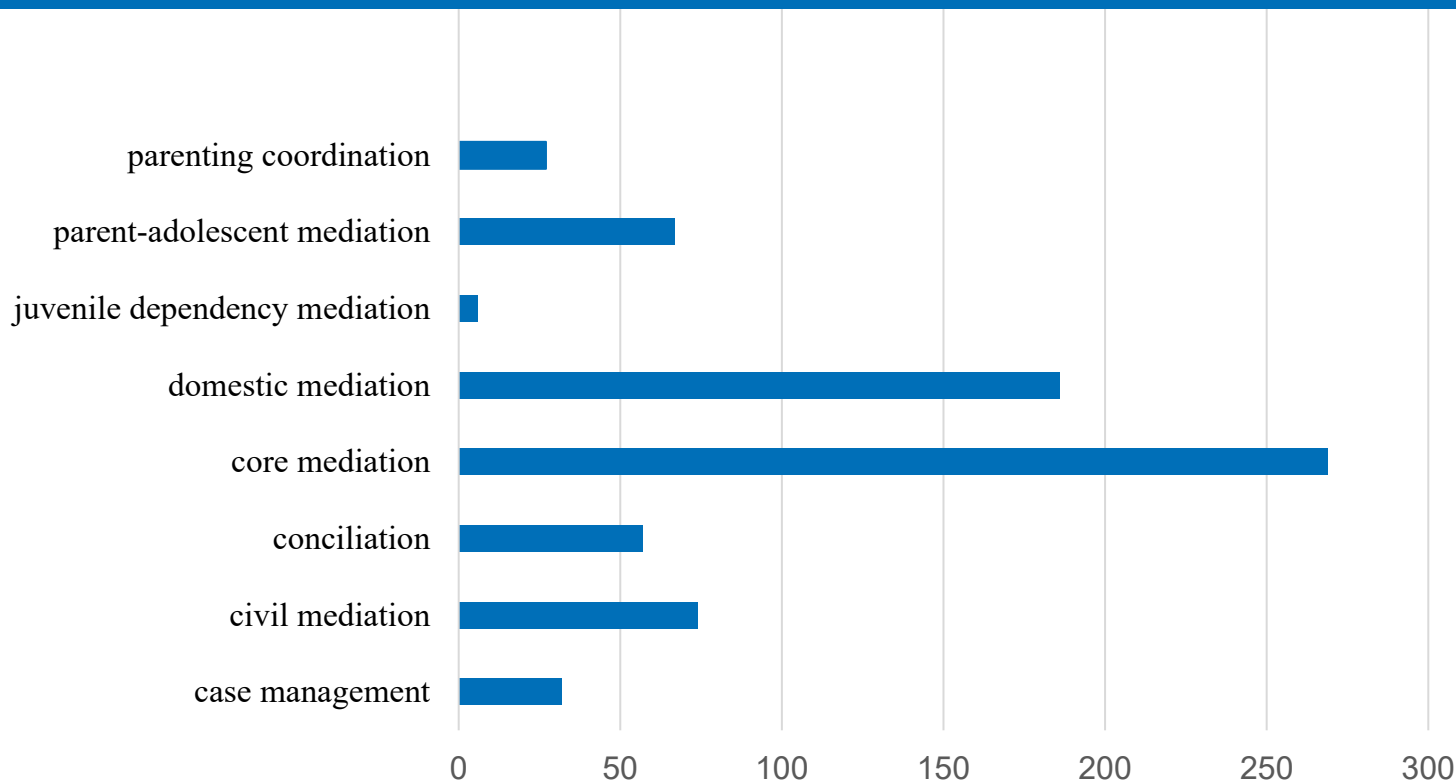
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This report is submitted in compliance with K.S.A. 5-506(b), which mandates the director of dispute resolution to report annually on the implementation of the Kansas Dispute Resolution Act. The act establishes an approval process for individuals and programs that practice dispute resolution, which is defined as “a process by which the parties involved in a dispute voluntarily agree or are referred or ordered by a court to enter into discussion and negotiation with the assistance of a neutral person.” Common forms of dispute resolution used in Kansas include mediation, conciliation, and parenting coordination. The act also establishes the Advisory Council on Dispute Resolution composed of knowledgeable individuals trained in dispute resolution. The council advises the director of dispute resolution on administering the act and related topics.

In this report, you will find information on the types of disputes handled by approved individuals and programs, suggestions for program development, statistics concerning the number and resolution of disputes, and other information relevant to achieving the goals of the Kansas Dispute Resolution Act.



2024 Approved Providers by Category



2024 Approval Totals

11 programs and 269 providers, including:

- 23 domestic court service officers
- 45 mentor mediators
- 80 attorneys
- 45 mentor mediators

Provider Approval Overview

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Approved Providers	266	229	262	256	269

Three-Year Comparison of Dispute Resolution Subject Areas

Subject Areas	2022	2023	2024
agriculture	19	35	22
case management	0	0	0
church	11	21	16
civil rights	27	46	30
community	10	33	50
consumer	33	22	46
custody parenting plan	2,006	2,342	2,371
domestic (full case)	357	489	382
domestic property	121	104	170
employment	214	172	101
environmental	3	2	4
family	80	73	42
group mediation	0	0	0
high conflict	0	0	0
juvenile dependency	2	4	4
limited action	23	78	138
malpractice	9	2	3
other	274	833	599
parent-adolescent	28	42	85
personal injury	38	27	24
probate	40	28	5
public policy	5	7	3
small claims	543	611	564
special education	16	8	18
offender/victim	95	194	312
workers compensation	21	19	27
Total	3,975	5,192	5,016



Six most active dispute resolution areas in 2024:

1. custody / parenting plan
2. small claims
3. domestic (full case)
4. victim offender
5. domestic property
6. limited action

Dispute resolution totals in the three-year comparison are taken from the annual renewal applications providers use to report the number of services provided.

Key Highlights

It has been a productive year for the director of dispute resolution and the Advisory Council on Dispute Resolution. We report these key initiatives and achievements.

❖ **Brochure about mediation**

Together, the director and council created a [brochure about mediation](#) to inform the public about services in Kansas. They distributed the brochure to Kansas self-help centers and posted it on the judicial branch website.

❖ **Mediation videos**

The council produced videos to answer the most common questions about mediation. They are posted on the [Mediation Most Frequently Asked Questions](#) webpage on the judicial branch website.

- [Is mediation the right choice for me?](#)
- [Is mediation voluntary, confidential, and safe?](#)
- [How much does mediation cost, and how long will it take?](#)
- [What do I look for when choosing a mediator?](#)
- [How does mediation work?](#)
- [How do I prepare for mediation?](#)

❖ **Roundtables**

The director hosts roundtables for domestic court services officers. Domestic CSOs help courts manage domestic caseloads more efficiently by providing [mediation](#), [conciliation](#), and [parenting coordination](#).

❖ **Newsletter**

The director publishes a [quarterly newsletter](#) for approved providers and programs. The newsletter keeps the reader up to date on alternative dispute resolution in Kansas.

❖ **Rule amendments**

The council began a comprehensive review of current [Rules Relating to Dispute Resolution](#). Potential revisions are being discussed, and the council is exploring including new types of alternative dispute resolution methods in the rules.

❖ **Virtual Dispute Resolution Town Hall**

The director holds an annual town hall meeting for approved providers and programs. This interactive event allows attendees to engage directly with the director.

Advisory Council on Dispute Resolution 2024 Membership

Judge Jacquelyn Rokusek, chair

Erin Barnes

Adriana Black

Sarah Doll Heeke

Jessica Gall

Mark Glover

Retired Judge Jerome Hellmer

Randy Hoerschgen

Jerrold Jost

Judge Kendra Lewison

Amanda Lovell

Terrie McCants

Elizabeth Mayfield

Melissa Meyer

Retired Judge Kevin Moriarty

Marvin Motley

Jonathan Olsen

Tonya Ricklefs

Sheryl Wilson

Amanda Jacobsen

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kscourts.gov/About-the-Courts/Programs/Dispute-Resolution
<https://self-help.kscourts.gov/Home/DisputeResolution>