



This report is submitted in compliance with K.S.A. 5-506(b). It requires the director of dispute resolution to report annually on 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.

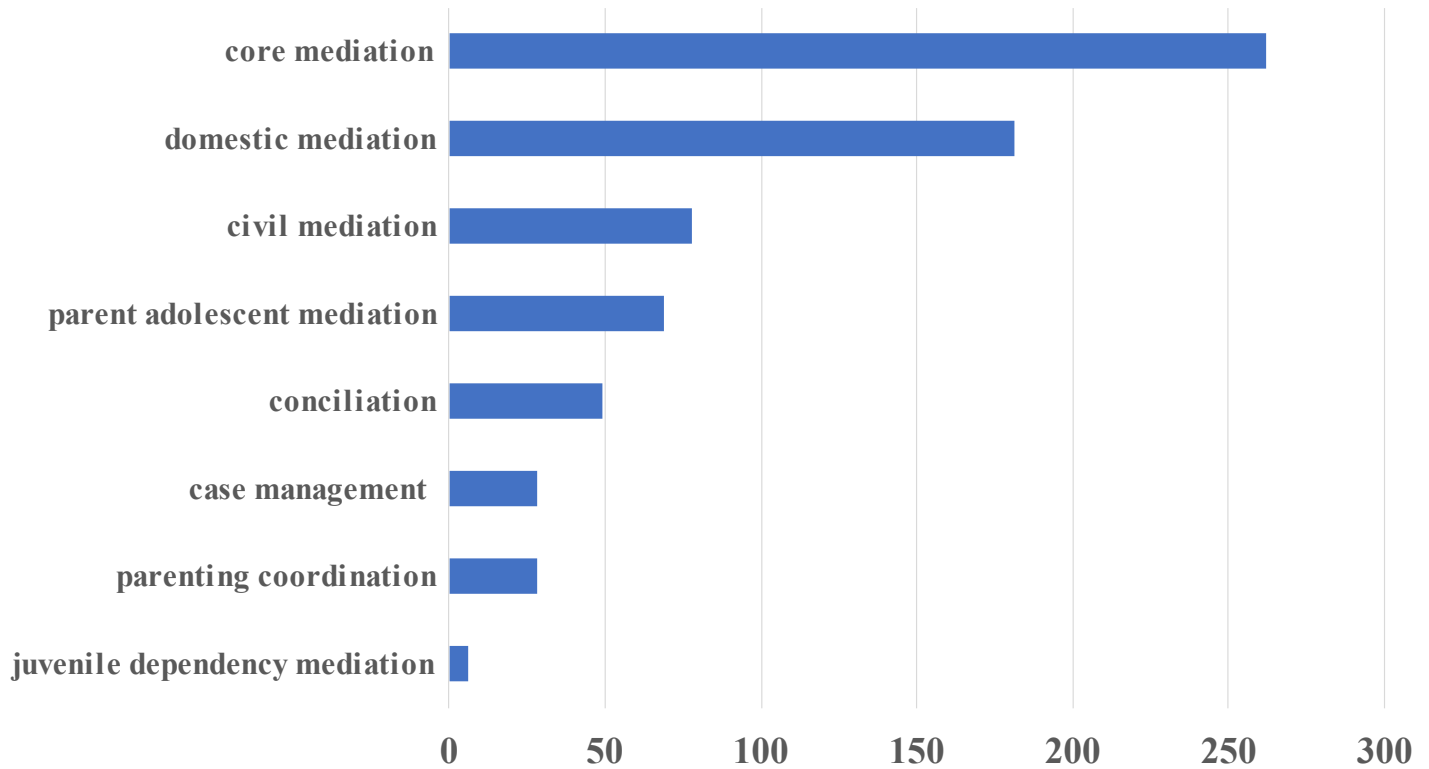
## Table of Contents

2022 approval totals	2
Subject area	3
Program feature: Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services (KAMS)	4
Improving services	5
Council members	6

*To promote, encourage, and facilitate alternative dispute resolution services which are accessible and affordable.*

~Advisory Council  
on Dispute Resolution  
mission statement

# 2022 Approved Providers by Category



## 2022 Approval Totals

- 262 dispute resolution providers
- 10 dispute resolution programs
- 40 dispute resolution mentors

# Three-Year Comparison of Dispute Resolution Subject Areas

Dispute areas	2020	2021	2022
agriculture	30	7	19
case management	0	3	0
church	22	24	11
civil rights	42	32	27
community	31	24	10
consumer	40	27	33
custody / parenting plan	1,547	2,711	2,006
domestic (full case)	143	334	357
domestic property	68	99	121
employment	353	326	214
environmental	5	9	3
family	46	77	80
group mediation	0	0	0
high conflict	0	0	0
juvenile dependency	13	3	2
limited action	21	9	23
malpractice	8	6	9
other	143	194	274
parent adolescent	78	21	28
personal injury	46	42	38
probate	41	27	40
public policy	4	6	5
small claims	385	455	543
special education	16	12	16
victim / offender	265	88	95
workers compensation	4	9	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,351</b>	<b>4,545</b>	<b>3,975</b>

## Six most active dispute resolution areas in 2022

1. custody / parenting plan (60%)
2. small claims (16%)
3. domestic (full case) (11%)
4. employment (6%)
5. domestic property (4%)
6. victim offender (3%)

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

# Program Feature: KAMS

## Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services

By: Kay Prather, Program Coordinator, Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services

[Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services](#) serves as a confidential forum for ag producers to resolve disputes with USDA agencies or others, and to help ag borrowers and creditors resolve issues and concerns. It is a resource hotline for ag producers, farmland owners, and ag creditors, to call for resources, information, and mediation services in a variety of areas. To access services, Kansas producers and landowners may call 1-800-321-FARM (3276). Every hotline call is free and confidential. Other services may be free or low cost, depending on the type of mediation, referrals, or services accessed. All fees are discussed and explained prior to anyone incurring such costs. Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services is part of K-State Research and Extension.

Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services has been the USDA certified state agricultural mediation program for Kansas since 1988. It is designed to provide alternative dispute resolution through mediation to agricultural producers, their lenders, and others directly affected by the actions and activities of USDA agencies. Initiated under the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, ag mediation programs started primarily for producers to mediate conflicts with USDA agencies and lenders. Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services provides resources, information, and assistance to agricultural producers, farmland owners, and others in agriculture in three primary areas: 1) conflict resolution (mediation); 2) legal assistance and information; and 3) financial analysis.

The 2018 farm bill added areas of service and expanded the types of cases Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services can assist with to include: 1) wetlands determinations; 2) farm programs compliance, including conservation programs and the national organic program; 3) agricultural credit; 4) rural water loan programs; 5) grazing on national forest system land; 6) pesticides; 7) lease issues, including land and equipment leases; 8) family farm transition; 9) farmer-neighbor disputes; and 10) other issues the Kansas Department of Agriculture considers appropriate for better serving the agricultural community and persons eligible for mediation.



# Improving Dispute Resolution Services

Throughout 2022, the director and the Advisory Council on Dispute Resolution worked to identify dispute resolution issues and find ways to address those issues. Below are three issues and steps we are taking to resolve them.

## **Insufficient practicum options**

- Encouraged the use of virtual conference platform practicum opportunities to connect mentor mediators and practicum seekers statewide.
- Provided an incentive for mentors by offering continuing dispute resolution education hours for coaching mediation simulations during practicums.
- Formed a subcommittee to find additional ways to expand practicum availability.

## **Lack of court referrals to dispute resolution providers**

- Provided educational dispute resolution webinars to judicial branch employees and judges.
- Council members presented at conferences for judges and attorneys about the different categories of dispute resolution and the positive effects it can have on Kansas courts.

## **Lack of public awareness about alternative dispute resolution practices**

- Added educational resources for the public to the judicial branch website.
- Formed a subcommittee to begin developing educational dispute resolution videos for the public.
- Worked to include information about dispute resolution through virtual self-help centers across Kansas.

# Advisory Council on Dispute Resolution 2022 Membership

**Judge Keven O’Grady, chair**

**Erin Barnes**

**Ronnie Beach**

**Sarah Doll Heeke**

**Dr. John Errante**

**Jenna Esquibel**

**Jessica Gall**

**Retired Judge Jerome Hellmer**

**Randy Hoerschgen**

**Judge Kendra Lewison**

**Amanda Lovell**

**Terrie McCants**

**Retired Judge Kevin Moriarty**

**Adina Morse**

**Marvin Motley**

**Janell Murphey**

**Jonathan Olsen**

**Dr. Tonya Ricklefs**

**Sheryl Wilson**

Amanda Jacobsen

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[kscourts.org/About-the-Courts/Programs/Dispute-Resolution](https://kscourts.org/About-the-Courts/Programs/Dispute-Resolution)