



Jesse E. DeGraftenreed III, Biography

Jesse (he/him) is a retired enlisted non-commissioned officer who served in the United States Army in the ordnance and infantry branch. Jesse has experience in various leadership roles during combat and humanitarian operations worldwide. He has extensive experience in negotiation and mediation, having received formal mediation training from Missouri State University in Civil & Family Mediation and various other conflict resolution training and education organizations.

Currently, Jesse serves as the chairperson for the Conflict Resolution Center in Saint Louis, Missouri. He was also the Co-Founder and Director of Operation for Teen Mediation International (T.M.I.) and works as a contractor for M.A.R.C.H. Inc. in Liberty, Missouri. In his private practice, Jesse is an experienced trainer, educator, and facilitator focusing on civil and family mediation. He also serves as a family visitation coordinator and monitor, helping parents stay connected with their children during times of divorce and separation.

Jesse specializes in conflict resolution as a mediator and educator, particularly in high-conflict scenarios related to divorce, civilian-police engagement, community, education, elder, and workplace mediation. In addition, he offers expertise as a private consultant in human resource matters including workplace investigations, education, facilitation of various workshops, and strategic planning. Jesse assists businesses and organizations in addressing equal employment opportunity issues, as well as state and federal workplace compliance.

His educational background includes a Master of Arts degree in Psychology from Pepperdine University, a Master in Organizational Leadership with a concentration in Human Resource Management from Claremont Lincoln University, and a Master of Legal Studies with a Certificate in Conflict Resolution from Washington University School of Law. He also holds undergraduate degrees in Business Administration and Organizational Leadership Studies from Drury University, Springfield, Missouri.

Jesse is a strong advocate for youth in leadership and community volunteerism. He believes that teaching conflict resolution to school-age children, even at the elementary level, can reduce school violence and help prevent youth from entering the school-to-prison pipeline. He values the power of mediation in addressing conflicts by promoting mindfulness, compassion, and respect for others.

Jesse is married to a fellow United States Army veteran, and together, they are raising a blended family consisting of four boys, three girls, and three grandchildren.