

# Family Mediation Practicum Project Mediator Application

## ***What is the Family Practicum Project?***

The Family Mediation Practicum Project is a family justice initiative designed to provide an opportunity for trained but inexperienced family mediators to practice mediation skills in a high quality practicum environment. The Practicum is located in New Westminster, B.C. and is sponsored by the BC Dispute Resolution Practicum Society and other groups in the community with funding from The Law Foundation, the BC Ministry of Attorney General, and Justice Canada.

Participants in the Family Mediation Practicum Project will participate in 20 hours of actual family mediation plus 10 hours of feedback for a total of **30 hours** of practicum training with a mentor at the practicum site. The mediations are supervised by highly trained and experienced mentors who assist the mediators to prepare for and conduct each mediation session and provide constructive feedback following each mediation.

## ***What are the entry qualifications?***

Successful Practicum participants are required to have a minimum of 40 hours of interest-based mediation training, including at least 10 hours of role play. In addition, they must have completed at least 24 additional hours of training in family dynamics and family violence and training in the fundamentals of family law.

## ***When does the next class start?***

The Family Mediation Practicum Project began in January, 2004 and continues to accept mediators in the Project as cases permit. The length of time to complete the Practicum depends upon mediator availability, volume of cases referred to the Project and cancellations of mediations by parties. The expected average time for completion is 3- 4 months.

## ***How to apply?***

Applicants may apply at any time and offers of acceptance will be awarded based on the selection criteria and according to the date the application is received. Qualified applicants on the waiting list will be contacted when space is available. To apply for the Practicum, simply complete the attached application form and send it to the address provided below, with a copy of your résumé, a passport-size photograph, contact information for two references and a cheque for \$400. This will be refundable if you are not accepted for the practicum. Please make the cheque payable to the **BC Dispute Resolution Practicum Society (Family)**.

## ***What is the cost?***

The fee for the Practicum is **\$2,544** (\$2400 plus 6% GST). The full fee is payable upon acceptance to the Project. If you are unable to participate in the Practicum after being accepted into the Project, a request for a refund must be made in writing no less than seven days prior to the first mandatory orientation session, and there will be a cancellation fee of \$400 charged. Cancellations fewer than seven days prior to the first mandatory orientation session will be subject to a charge of \$750.

## ***How to obtain further information?***

If you have questions regarding your training qualifications or would like to receive further information, please contact Carole McKnight, Project Director, at (604) 516-0788.

# Family Mediation Practicum Project Mediator Application

1. NAME: \_\_\_\_\_
2. ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_
3. WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_
4. When you would be available to start the practicum? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How did you hear about the practicum? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Previous Training

*Requirement: Successful Practicum participants are required to have a minimum of 40 hours of interest-based mediation training, including at least 10 hours of role play. In addition, you must have completed at least 24 additional hours of training in family dynamics and family violence<sup>1</sup> and training in the fundamentals of family law<sup>2</sup>. Please use a separate page to list your training, the training institution, and the hours of training for each course. Note that extra points may be given to applicants who have additional training in child development, effects of separation on adults and children, ethics in mediation, child support guidelines, and other mediation courses.*

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7. Write a few sentences about why you are applying and what you hope to achieve from the Project:  
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8. **Proof of Liability Insurance.** All mediators will be required to obtain liability insurance prior to participating in the Practicum. *If you have insurance*, you may attach a copy of your most recent policy. If you are a member of the Law Society of British Columbia, you may provide a copy of your most recent Certificate of Professional Liability Insurance. *If you do not have insurance at time of application*, you will be required to provide proof of insurance before beginning the Practicum.
9. **Attach:** Names and telephone numbers for two references, your resume, a passport-size photograph of yourself, and a cheque for \$400 (deposit), payable to **BC Dispute Resolution Practicum Society (Family)**.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples of acceptable courses are *Family Dynamics*, *Abuse and Control for Lawyers and Mediators* offered by Continuing Legal Education, *CORR605: Family Violence: Effects on Separation and Divorce* offered by Justice Institute of BC, and *CM363: Power Imbalances and Abuse Issues in Family Mediation* offered by The Institute of Conflict Analysis & Management.

<sup>2</sup> Courses such as *CORR606: Introduction to the Family Justice Services in BC* offered by the Justice Institute of BC and *CM368 Child Law Issues and Drafting Memorandums of Understanding* offered by the Institute of Conflict Analysis & Management are acceptable, as are family law courses taken in a Law Faculty.

10. **Applications must be accompanied by a deposit of \$400. If you are accepted into the Project, you will be required to provide a further cheque of \$2144(\$2,544 total, including GST) and to enter into a Practicum Agreement. If you cannot participate in the Practicum after having been accepted into the Project, your request for a refund must be made in writing no less than seven days prior to the first mandatory orientation session, and there will be a \$400 cancellation fee charged. Cancellations fewer than seven days prior to the first mandatory orientation session will be subject to a cancellation fee of \$750.**

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

*Protection of Personal Information: The personal information sought by this application form is being collected for the purpose of determining eligibility for the Family Mediation Practicum Project and for administering the project. The information will not be disclosed to any other person or organization except as authorized by the Personal Information Protection Act. The Society's Personal Information Protection Policy is published on its website at: <http://www.courtmediation.com/society.php>*

**Submit Applications to:**

CAROLE MCKNIGHT, PROJECT DIRECTOR  
FAMILY MEDIATION PRACTICUM PROJECT

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 519 Seventh Street, New Westminster, B.C. V3M 6A7

For more information phone: (604) 516-0788 Fax: (604) 516-0708

email: fammediation@yahoo.ca