

CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION

Qualifications & the Selection Process

Mediator Qualifications

Following are the basic qualifications for child protection mediators:

Training and Education Requirements

- 80 hours of core education in conflict resolution and mediation theory and skills training (40 hours specifically on mediation, including 10 hours of simulated, or role play, mediation under direct supervision). Extensive mediation experience could substitute in part or in whole for training time;
- 100 additional hours of related training in dispute resolution or in a "related" field. A related field will be interpreted to include substantive professional disciplines such as law, social work, and psychology, or any other discipline involving a significant element of negotiation, communication skills, conflict management, etc.; and
- 20 hours per year of ongoing professional development and continuing education, defined to include courses, conferences, workshops, coaching, mentoring or supervising mediation trainees.

Experience Prerequisites

- Completion of a minimum number of mediations as a primary mediator or sole mediator, being:
 - 10 fee paid private mediations; or
 - 10 mediations in a structured setting under the auspices of an accepted mediation organization; or
 - 10 mediations in a fully supervised and accepted practicum; or
 - a combination of the above.

Preference may be given to applicants with experience in family mediation.

Letters of Reference Requirements

- Suitability to practice child protection mediation must be demonstrated by two positive references from peers or supervisors familiar with the applicant's work, provided that the references speak credibly to the applicant's mediation skills and commitment to mediation.

The Selection Process

Working in collaboration with the Ministry of Children and Families, the Dispute Resolution Office, Ministry of Attorney General, will from time to time issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to recruit qualified mediators to provide child protection mediation services in specified communities and areas of the province.

Based on a review of the RFQ responses, the ministry will establish a List of Qualified Suppliers of child protection mediation services who may be asked to participate in a selection process. Qualified individuals who successfully complete the selection process may choose to enter into a Contract for Services to provide child protection mediation services, at which time they will be placed on the Child Protection Mediation Roster.

Contacts

For more information on training and education, see the BC Mediator Roster Society website at www.mediator-roster.bc.ca/ and go to "Admission to the Rosters" on the navigation menu.