

MEDIATOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

- (A) **FAMILY MEDIATORS.** For certification, a mediator of family and dissolution of marriage issues must:
- (1) Complete the mediator application in the mediation office;
 - (2) Have a bachelor's or advanced degree in social work, mental health, behavioral or social sciences; or be a physician certified to practice adult or child psychiatry; or have a law degree or be a certified public accountant licensed to practice in any United States jurisdiction; and have at least four years practical experience in one of the aforementioned fields; or have four years family mediation experience with a minimum of ten mediations per year;
 - (3) Complete a minimum of 70 hours of mediation training approved by the Superior Court, as well as the required number of observations and co-mediations **in this specified order**:
 - A. Complete a 28-hour general mediation training approved by the Superior Court;
 - B. Observe five general civil mediation sessions conducted by a certified mediator or complete an equivalent general mediation practicum approved by the Superior Court;
 - C. Complete a 42-hour domestic mediation training approved by the Superior Court;
 - D. Observe one domestic mediation session conducted by a certified mediator and complete two domestic co-mediations or attend an equivalent domestic practicum approved by the Superior Court;
 - (4) Attend the Cobb County "Seminar for Divorcing Parents";
 - (5) Be evaluated in two mediation sessions by the Court Administrator or his designee acting as the evaluator.
 - (6) Be of good moral character.
 - (7) Be approved by a mediation panel consisting of the Court Administrator of the Superior Court and the ADR coordinators.

Family Mediators, cont.

- (8) ****OPTIONAL****: In order to be assigned to domestic cases that may have **allegations of domestic violence**, mediator applicant must complete additional 14-hour domestic violence training approved by the Superior Court.

(B) **Civil matters in which the Superior Court has concurrent jurisdiction with the Magistrate Court.**

- (1) Complete the mediator application in the mediation office;
- (2) Complete a minimum of 56 hours of mediation training approved by the Superior Court (If applying to mediate civil cases only, 56 hours of training will be required as opposed to just the 28-hour general civil mediation training required along with the 42-hour domestic training to become a family mediator.);
- (3) Observe five general civil mediation sessions conducted by a certified mediator or complete an approved general civil practicum and be evaluated in two mediation sessions by the Court Administrator or his designee acting as the evaluator.
- (4) Be of good moral character.
- (5) Be approved by a mediation panel consisting of the Court Administrator of the Superior Court and the Programs Administrator.

(C) **Other Civil Matters.**

- (1) Complete the mediator application in the mediation office;
- (2) Complete a minimum of 56 hours of mediation training approved by the Superior Court (If applying to mediate civil cases only, 56 hours of training will be required as opposed to just the 28-hour general civil mediation training required along with the 42-hour domestic training to become a family mediator).

- (3) Be a member in good standing of the Georgia Bar with at least three years of Georgia practice or be a former Cobb County Commissioner;
 - (4) Observe five general civil mediation sessions conducted by a certified mediator or complete an approved general civil practicum and be evaluated in two mediation sessions by the Court Administrator or his designee acting as the evaluator.
 - (5) Be of good moral character.
 - (6) Be approved by a mediation panel consisting of the Court Administrator of the Superior Court and the Programs Administrator.
- (D) (1) The court may certify a retired or former judge to sit as a mediator.
- (2) The applicant may designate the area of practice that he or she wants to mediate.
- (E) **Special Conditions.** Due to exceptional circumstances, the mediator may require the expertise of an individual in another profession during the mediation. The mediator is authorized to have said individual present with the consent of all parties involved in the mediation. Should the parties agree to have the expert present, the cost shall be shared equally by the parties.
- (F) **Removal of Mediator from the Approved Mediator List.** The mediation panel, after hearing, shall have the authority to remove any mediator from the certified list for good cause shown.
- (G) **Continuing Education.** All mediators must complete an approved 3-hour continuing education course on a yearly basis in order to remain in good standing with the Superior Court ADR Program.
- (H) **State Registration.** All mediators must be registered and in good standing with the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.