



Family Mediation Canada / Médiation Familiale Canada

# FAMILY MEDIATOR NATIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

## INTRODUCTION

Family Mediation Canada / Médiation Familiale Canada (FMC) is the national association for conflict resolution specifically focused on family mediation. FMC is dedicated to offering Canadian families alternatives to resolving conflicts by supporting the work and efforts of our members. With your membership in FMC and Certification as a mediator, you'll be joining many professionals from across the nation in their efforts to educate and offer Canadian families effective, alternative forms of conflict resolution. FMC has become the leading body for the field of mediation on an international basis and members only are given the opportunity to seek national FMC mediator certification. FMC's national certification program is focused on turning out qualified and trained mediators. In light of this, the Family Mediator Certification Program is unique, in that there is a rigorous training process and a thorough assessment of the Candidate's mediation skills, in keeping with the high standards that FMC lays out for its mediators in its Code of Professional Conduct and guidelines. Our certification program puts strong emphasis on skills assessments for each candidate.

The following are some of the unique features of FMC's Family Mediator Certification Program, which sets it apart from other forms of mediator recognition/courses:

- A minimum of 80 hours of basic conflict resolution & mediation training and at least an additional 100 hours of further education & training in specific areas of family issues is mandatory.
- An approved mediation practicum is necessary or, in lieu of, two positive peer evaluations from experienced family mediators.
- The candidate must produce a video taped role-play assessment along with a skills-assessment.
- A written final examination. Continuing education hours are required in order to maintain certification status.

## Family Mediator National Certification

### *Designations Available*

Family Relations Mediator, FMC Cert. FRM  
Comprehensive Family Mediator, FMC Cert. CFM

# GETTING STARTED

## What is the process to become a FMC Certified Family Mediator?

- Candidates wishing to pursue the FMC Certified Family Mediator designation must first become a member of FMC (application for membership is available at [www.fmc.ca](http://www.fmc.ca) or contact the FMC office).
- Following that, members must complete the Certification Application Form which can be downloaded at [www.fmc.ca](http://www.fmc.ca); click on Certification.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Designations that can be obtained through Certification:

Family Relations Mediator, FMC Cert. FRM  
Comprehensive Family Mediator, FMC Cert CFM

### Prerequisites for certification

(See page 3)

### Practicum requirement

Please note that in order to complete the certification process the Practicum Requirement must be met. Candidates are expected to have completed a 30 hour supervised practicum.

If the candidate has been a practicing family mediator for at least 2 years, in lieu of a completion of a practicum, they may submit two positive peer evaluations from references who have mediation experience and knowledge of the candidate's mediation practices.

### What is the process for obtaining certification?

- Acceptance of application and prerequisites.
- Completion and submission of a role-play video.
- Personal skills assessment of the video.
- Final written examination.
- FMC Board of Directors ratification of the candidate.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *How long does it take to become FMC*

### *certified?*

A candidate can complete the certification process in a few months, if all submissions are completed in a timely manner. Candidates have up to one year to complete.

### *How does the FMC Certification Program differ from accreditation offered by the provincial family mediation organizations?*

FMC's certification process is known throughout Canada, and is transportable from one legal jurisdiction to another. Provincial governments and judges are keen to ensure that court-connected mediators offer safe, professional mediation services in compliance with national professional practice and training standards. FMC family mediation certification is increasingly being required of family mediators who wish to work in close proximity with courts.

### **How does FMC verify the hours of training?**

The Certifying Assessor reviews the candidate's list of trainers and courses in detail and the completed statutory declaration verifying the accuracy of the contents of the application.

### ***Must I carry special liability insurance if I am a Certified Mediator?***

Yes. Your declaration of this is a condition of your annual maintenance. Insurance should be in the amount of no less than \$1 million aggregate. FMC provides access to the insurer.

## FEES

### **The fees for Certification are as follows:**

- Application form can be downloaded at no cost from [www.fmc.ca](http://www.fmc.ca)
- Application Fee - \$150.00 (nonrefundable) and...
- Assessment Fee - \$500.00, are to be submitted with the application
- Annual Maintenance Fee \$125
- Insurance will be quoted by the Insurer.

## **CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE**

Certified members are required to:

- Renew their FMC membership annually
- Maintain a minimum number of hours of continuing education in family mediation

- Maintain insurance coverage in the amount of \$1 million aggregate.

## ***Why Certify?***

- Professional development
- Stay ahead of government standards/requirements
- Quality mark for consumers
- Competitive edge as consumer awareness increases
- Credential supporting higher fee structure and marketing of professional practice
- Personal satisfaction in achievement

# **CERTIFICATION PREREQUISITES**

## **CERTIFIED FAMILY RELATIONS MEDIATOR**

At least 80 hours of basic conflict resolution and mediation theory education and skills training, including intercultural training, AND at least 100 hours of further related education and training including:

- At least 35 hours of training on the family dynamics of separation and divorce
- At least 14 hours relating to family and child law
- At least 21 hours of training including instruction on power imbalances and the dynamics and effects of family abuse on family members
- At least 7 hours training on financial issues relating to separation, divorce and family reorganization
- At least 7 hours of training on ethical issues relating to the mediation process
- At least 3 hours on drafting memoranda of understanding

## **CERTIFIED COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY MEDIATOR**

At least 80 hours of basic conflict resolution and mediation theory education and skills training, including intercultural training AND at least 150 hours of further related education and training including:

- At least 35 hours of training on the family dynamics of separation and divorce
- At least 21 hours on child law: custody, access, guardianship, support, child protection and abduction law
- At least 21 hours of training including instruction on power imbalances and the dynamics and effects of family abuse on family members
- At least 42 hours training on legal and financial issues relating to separation, divorce and family reorganization
- At least 7 hours of training on ethical issues relating to the mediation process
- At least 3 hours on drafting memoranda of understanding

## **WHAT PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING.....**

*“The FMC Certification is an essential requirement for any family mediation practitioner or anyone pursuing a career in family mediation. The FMC Certification is recognized as the highest standard of family mediation certification in Canada and as such is an assurance to any referring*

*person or body or member of the public that the 'FMC' certified mediator has the skills and professionalism necessary to mediate a family dispute."*

**Vicki Bennett, Vancouver, BC**

*"The certification process itself was a tremendous learning experience for me. The rigorous evaluation makes FMC certification credible in the market place."*

**June Maresca, Toronto, ON**

**For more information contact the Executive Director of FMC:**

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