

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION**

GENERAL ORDER: 2014 D 4

SUBJECT: Continuing Education Requirements for Court-Certified Mediators

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- I. Mediators must complete a 1.5 hour Domestic Violence Continuing Education training as approved by the Office of the Presiding Judge within 6 months of being placed on the court-approved mediation list. Credit for the Domestic Violence Education training may be applied towards the (9) hour minimum requirement as set forth below. Workshops, trainings and substantive education are available from a variety of providers. It is the mediator's responsibility to select programs that satisfy the Court criteria. All programs submitted for credit are subject to review and approval by the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division.

- II. Domestic Relations Division court-certified mediators must complete a minimum of nine (9) hours of continuing education every two years as set forth below:
 - A. At least 4.5 hours must relate to Family Mediation Process and Skills including but not limited to:
 1. Domestic Violence and Other Impediments to Mediation;
 2. High -conflict cases;
 3. Developing and modifying parenting arrangements and responsibilities;
 4. Professional standards and ethics for family mediators;
 5. Conflict resolution theory and process in family mediation.

 - B. Up to 4.5 hours of courses in areas related to Family Law or Mental Health Education including but not limited to:
 1. Psychological and developmental aspects, family dynamics, and the impact of conflict on children, adults and families;
 2. Financial and legal aspects of family, divorce and parentage cases;
 3. Process implications related to gender, culture and diversity.

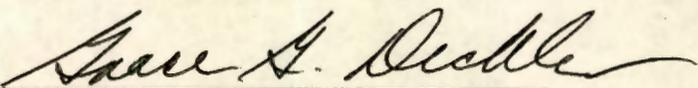
 - C. Attendance at the Domestic Relations Division's Child Representative Seminars may be used to fulfill the requirements under either A or B of this section.

III. Reporting Period

- A. Mediators shall report their hours by completing the Domestic Relations Division Continuing Education Report Form for Mediators that can be found on Cook County Circuit Court website. Mediators must also attest to having current mediator malpractice coverage.
- B. The two-year reporting period ends June 30th of every even year. For the mediator's first reporting period, the required hours will be pro-rated based on the number of full months since the mediator's placement on the court-certified list. The first reporting period ends June 30, 2016.
- C. The Continuing Education Report Form is due within 10 days following the end of the reporting period.

Dated this 20th day of November, 2014. This Order shall be spread upon the records of this Court and published.

ENTERED:



HON. GRACE G. DICKLER
Presiding Judge
Domestic Relations Division