

Family Mediation Nova Scotia (FMNS) Practicing Member Requirements

Preamble

Family Mediation Nova Scotia (FMNS) has endeavoured to set standards of knowledge, experience and education through the creation of a **Practicing Member** category within FMNS. FMNS is affiliated with Family Mediation Canada (FMC).

FMNS recognizes that a person who wishes to become a **Practicing Member** who is already certified by FMC as either a **Family Relations Mediator**, a **Financial Family Mediator**, or a **Comprehensive Family Mediator**, has already met the standards set out by FMNS for a **Practicing Member**. A FMC certified family mediator shall be granted **Practicing Member** status, upon proof of certification from FMC.

For those members who have not been certified by FMC and wish to obtain **Practicing Member** status, FMNS has set standards that are complimentary to those of FMC, but can be achieved prior to obtaining certification through FMC. FMNS is not a certifying body. The requirements created for **Practicing Member** status are not a certification. Rather they reflect a desire to recognize members of FMNS who have achieved a certain level of knowledge, education and experience as family mediators. All members seeking **Practicing Member** status must be a **General Member** in good standing at the time of application.

Requirements for Practicing Member

A **Practicing Member** is one who meets the requirements set forth in this document.

A. Education

To become a **Practicing Member** the applicant must have completed a minimum of an undergraduate university degree or equivalent.

B. Minimum Mediation Training

To become a **Practicing Member**, the applicant must have completed the following training:

1. At least 80 hours of basic conflict resolution, negotiation and mediation theory education and skills training that includes

training in ethical issues, cultural diversity and balancing power in relationships;

2. At least 14 hours of training on the dynamics and effects of abuse in families, including the use of tools and techniques to assess and screen for appropriateness for mediation;
3. At least 7 hours of training on the law relating to families and children;
4. At least 7 hours of training on the family dynamics of separation and divorce including child development issues; and
5. At least 7 hours training on financial issues including support.

Note: training in numbers 3, 4, and 5 above can be demonstrated through completion of education programs that may not necessarily be part of specialized training in mediation. For example, the training may be part of course work toward a university degree.

C. Experience and/or Supervised Practicum

To become a **Practicing Member** the applicant must have mediation experience as outlined below:

1. At least 80 hours of recent face to face solo mediation or co-mediation experience that may include mediation done within a supervised practicum, i.e. mentorship.

OR

2. At least 64 hours (80%) face to face solo mediation or co-mediation and at least 16 hours (20%) of any of the following:
 - a) supervisory or consultative sessions with a supervisor regarding a case; and/or
 - b) peer consultation with other practicing mediators; and/or
 - c) other (please see exceptional circumstances).

Note: supervision shall be conducted by a practicing member of FMNS or other qualified mediator.

D. Documentation

To become a **Practicing Member**, the applicant must submit all of the following documents:

1. Completed application form.
2. Two completed Memoranda of Understanding that the applicant has mediated to conclusion. All identifying information must be

omitted.

3. A description of mediation courses taken, including dates, content, training institution and instructors and, where possible, copies of certificates obtained by applicant.
4. A copy of current liability insurance with mediation coverage.
5. Two references, including at least one person who has supervised the applicant's work or who has co-mediated with the applicant.
6. Completed Statutory Declaration.

E. Membership

To become a **Practicing Member** the applicant must be a:

1. **General Member** in good standing of **FMNS** and **FMC** and
2. Member in good standing of one's professional body, if applicable.

F. Exceptional Circumstances

Applicants whose education, training, experience and or documentation may not conform to the requirements outlined above can apply for consideration as **Practicing Member** of **FMNS** relying on their exceptional circumstances.

Applicants relying on **exceptional circumstances** must:

1. Supply a summary supporting the application, setting out education level, mediation training, specifics of mediation experience, references and any relevant documentation.
2. Provide the rationale for consideration under exceptional circumstances.

G. Continuing Education

In order to maintain Practicing Member status, a **Practicing Member** shall provide a declaration of continuing education. The continuing education requirement can be fulfilled by participating in a minimum of 20 hours over a **two-year period**, in at least **two** of the following categories:

1. Participating in further mediation training.
2. Attending a mediation conference.
3. Writing an article on a relevant subject for a journal, newsletter

- or other publication.
4. Conducting a speaking engagement on a relevant topic.
 5. Participating in a presentation at a conference.
 6. Participating as a Board or Committee member for FMNS and FMC.
 7. Providing mediation related training including coaching and consulting.
 8. Supervising or consulting regarding mediation practicum work.

H. Code of Professional Conduct

A **Practicing Member of FMNS** must abide by the current *Family Mediation Canada Code of Professional Conduct*. Refer to Appendix A for a copy of the Code.

I. Grand parenting

The following terms shall apply to grand parenting of **Practicing Members**:

1. New Applicants applying as **Practicing Members** will be expected to comply with the new guidelines as of October 1, 1999.
2. Current Practicing Members will be expected to comply with the new guidelines as of April 30, 2001.

J. Termination of Practicing Status

Practicing status will be terminated for any of the following reasons:

1. Failure to comply with the application requirements.
2. Failure to follow the Code of Professional Conduct.
3. Failure to pay membership fees.
4. Failure to complete the declaration of continuing education.