For more information, please see: VACourts.gov - Programs: Mediation

Virginia Mediation Certification

General District Court (GDC)

Training

Core courses

Mentorship

2 Observations

3 Co-Mediations at minimum 5 hours

- Memorandum of Agreement / Understanding

Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (J&DR)

Specific Training

Core courses plus:

20 hr Family Mediation Skills

8-hr Screening for Domestic Abuse

8-hr Support Matters in VA Family Courts

Mentorship

2 Observations

5 co-mediations at minimum 10 hours

- Memorandum of Agreement in Custody and Visitation
- Two Child Support calculations worksheets

Circuit Court Civil (CCC)

Specific Training

Core courses plus:

20-hr CCC core course

Mentorship

2 Observations

5 co-mediations at minimum 10 hours or at least 2 at minimum 20 hours

- Memorandum of Agreement

Circuit Court Family (CCF)

Specific Training

Same as JDR plus:

12 hr CCF core course

Mentorship

2 Observations

5 co-mediations at minimum 10 hours

- Memorandum of Agreement in equitable distribution of assets
- Same Memoranda and CS worksheets as JDR

Core Courses for each level

20 hr Basic Mediation Skills

4-hr Orientation to VA Judicial System (waiver if VSB attorney)

If Prior GDC Certification:

1 Observation

2 co-mediations at no minimum hours

- Memorandum of Agreements same as pertains to CCC or CCF

If Prior JDR Certification:

Roadmap for the VA Mediation Certification Process[1]

Certification levels (most common)

- General District Court (GDC)
- Juvenile & Domestic Relations (JDR)
- Circuit Court Civil (CCC)
- Circuit Court Family (CCF)

Training – Core courses required for all certification levels:

- ☐ Basic mediation – 20-hour core course or waiver for out-of-state training
- ☐ VA Judicial System – 4-hour orientation core course, waived for VSB attorney's

Family (JDR and CCF), must take in addition:

- ☐ Family mediation – 20-hour core course (i.e. custody, visitation, support)
- ☐ Support Matters in Virginia Family Courts – 8-hour core course
- ☐ Domestic abuse screening before mediation – 8-hour core course

Advanced – Circuit Court level mediation:

- ☐ Circuit Court Civil – 12-hour core course (i.e. complex civil and multi-party disputes)
- ☐ Circuit Court Family – 20-hour core course (i.e. divorce and equitable asset distribution)

Mentorship – observations and co-mediations with VA certified mentor:

Observations – two per level, or one at Circuit level with prior certification

- One or both may be substituted with level specific 4 or 8-hour observation course

Co-Mediations – minimum required cases and hours

GDC 3 cases / 5 hours
JDR 5 cases / 10 hours
CCC 5 cases / 10 hours (2 cases with prior GDC)
CCF 5 cases / 10 hours (2 cases with prior JDR)

Required forms and Memoranda:

- Application for Mediator Certification (Form ADR-1000A)
- ADR 1008 Mentee Portfolio form – each co-mediation
- ADR 1001 Mentee Evaluation form – each co-mediation; *Mentee complete Sect IV*
- Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) – one per each level certification desired
  - For JDR and CCF – Custody / Visitation, and two Child Support Calculations Worksheet
  - For CCF – Agreement must include equitable distribution of assets

[1] For the most complete information, please refer to: Mediation program on VACourts.gov, Certification and Training; Guidelines for the Training and Certification of Court-Referred Mediators and Mentorship Guidelines for the Certification of Court-Referred Mediators