

LOUISIANA MEDIATOR REGISTRY

REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW & RENEWAL APPLICANTS TO CIVIL, CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION, & JUVENILE MEDIATOR REGISTERS

CIVIL MEDIATORS

La. R.S. 9:4106. Qualifications of mediators

A. To qualify for appointment as a mediator under this Chapter:

(1) (a) A person must have completed a **minimum of forty classroom hours** of training in mediation in a course conducted by an individual or organization approved by the MCLE Committee or the ADR Section **and** must be **licensed to practice law in any state for not less than five years**. Any previous mediation training approved by the MCLE Committee can be used to satisfy the requirements of this Section; *or*

(b) A person, whether or not licensed to practice law, must have completed a **minimum of forty classroom hours** of training in mediation in a course conducted by an organization or individual approved by the MCLE Committee or the ADR Section, **and** must have **mediated more than twenty-five disputes** **or** must have engaged in more than **five hundred hours of dispute resolutions**. The ADR Section shall determine the proper method by which to certify the requirements hereof.

(2) A person must have **served as a Louisiana district, appellate, or supreme court judge** for at least **ten years** **and** **no longer be serving as a judge**.

B. In order **to maintain a listing** in the approved register of qualified mediators, a mediator must be **willing to accept two annual pro bono appointments** **and** **participate in ten hours of training** in alternative dispute resolutions in a continuing education course approved by the MCLE Committee or the ADR Section **every two years**.

CHILD CUSTODY and VISITATION MEDIATORS

La. R.S. 9:334. Mediator qualifications

- A. In order to serve as a qualified mediator under the provisions of this Subpart, a person shall:
- (1) (a) Possess a **college degree** and complete a minimum of **forty hours of general mediation training** and **twenty hours of specialized training** in the mediation of child custody disputes; *or*
 - (b) Hold a **license** or **certification** as an attorney, psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, marriage and family counselor, professional counselor, or clergyman and complete a minimum of **twelve hours of general mediation training** and **twenty hours of specialized training** in the mediation of child custody disputes.
 - (2) Complete a minimum of **eight hours of co-mediation training** under the direct supervision of a mediator who is qualified in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (3) of this Subsection, and who has served a minimum of fifty hours as a dispute mediator.
 - (3) Mediators who prior to August 15, 1997, satisfied the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection and served a minimum of fifty hours as a child custody dispute mediator are not required to complete eight hours of co-mediation training in order to serve as a qualified mediator and are qualified to supervise co-mediation training as provided in paragraph (2) of this Subsection.
 - (4) Have **served as a Louisiana city, parish, family, juvenile, district, appellate, or supreme court judge** for at least **ten years**, have completed at least **twenty hours** of specialized mediation training in child custody disputes, and no longer be serving as a judge.
- B. The training specified in Paragraph A (1) above shall include instruction as to the following: (1) The Louisiana judicial system and judicial procedure in domestic cases. (2) Ethical standards, including confidentiality and conflict of interests. (3) Child development, including the impact of divorce on development. (4) Family systems theory. (5) Communication skills. (6) The mediation process and required document execution.
- C. A dispute mediator initially qualified under the provisions of this Subpart shall, in order to **remain qualified**, complete a minimum of **twenty hours** of clinical education in dispute mediation **every two calendar years**.

JUVENILE MEDIATORS

La. Children's Code Art. 439. Qualifications of a mediator

- A. In order to serve as a qualified mediator in any juvenile court dispute, a person must complete the educational and training requirements of Paragraph B and the co-mediation requirements of Paragraph C, unless he met the requirements of Paragraph B prior to August 15, 1999.
- B. A mediator must either:
- (1) Possess a **college degree** and complete a minimum of **forty hours of general mediation training** and **twenty hours of specialized training** in the mediation of juvenile court disputes.
 - (2) Hold a **license** or **certification** as an attorney, psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, marriage and family counselor, or professional counselor or clergyman who, for purposes of this Chapter, is a minister, priest, rabbi, or other similar functionary of a religious organization and complete a minimum of **twelve hours of general mediation training** and **twenty hours of specialized training** in the mediation of juvenile court disputes.
- C. A mediator must complete a minimum of **eight hours** of co-mediation training under a course that has been approved by the Louisiana State Bar Association, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, or under the direct supervision of a mediator who is qualified in accordance with this Article or in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 9:334 and who has served as a dispute mediator for a minimum of **fifty hours**.
- D. A mediator shall furnish satisfactory evidence of his qualifications.
- E. General mediation training shall include theoretical and clinical training in the development and practice of negotiation and mediation skills.
- F. Specialized training in the mediation of juvenile court disputes shall include clinical training in the development and practice of negotiation and mediation skills and instruction concerning these subjects: (1) Judicial procedure in juvenile cases. (2) Ethical standards, including confidentiality and conflicts of interest. (3) Child development. (4) Family systems theory, including family conflict. (5) Mediation process and required document execution. (6) The dynamics of child abuse and neglect, delinquency, and rehabilitation.
- G. In order **to remain qualified**, a mediator shall complete a minimum of **twenty hours** of clinical education in dispute mediation **every two years**.