

Mediation Mentorship

FamilyKind provides the **FamilyKind Mediation Mentorship Program (MMP)**, an intensive training designed to give mediators the tools and support they need to open a private practice and to provide high-quality mediation services throughout New York State.

The purpose of the program is to provide newly-trained mediators, or those who have been mediating for some time but who wish to improve their skills, with hands-on experience observing and co-mediating cases with an experienced family and divorce mediator. Each participant will be paired with a highly qualified Mentor and will also be part of an enriched educational and practical environment

The goal is for the Mentee to have real world experience and to observe the stages of the mediation process, including, for example, the introduction to mediation, information sharing, the identification of issues, the generation of options, the drafting of the Memorandum of Understanding or Separation Agreement and divorce papers, as applicable, and resolution or impasse. The Mentee will also have the opportunity to conduct, with the assistance of the Mentor, mediation screening, orientation, and notetaking, as well as to take part substantively, where feasible, in the mediation sessions.

Program Components

- 6 mediation sessions comprised of both observations and/or co-mediations plus before and after session preparation and debrief with the goal to see/participate in as many stages of the mediation process as feasible, including session notetaking, drafting portions of Memoranda of Understanding and/or Separation Agreements, and researching points of law
- Opportunity to tailor the experience to your needs, including having regular contact with the Mentor to review and receive feedback on cases outside the formal program
- Exposure to all areas of private practice management including scheduling, intake and billing, marketing and networking, guidance on mediator education, and organization memberships
- Midpoint and endpoint evaluations and access to the Directors of the program
- Tours of the New York County Supreme and Family Courts to review divorce and petition filing procedures and observe family court proceedings
- A four and a half hour FamilyKind New York State Certified Parent Education Class observation (or participation)
- Sample practice forms and templates

Requirements

To participate in the program participants must have completed 60 hours of mediation training relating to family and/or divorce, which must include at least 40 hours of Basic Divorce Mediation Training. Prior experience mediating cases either as part of an apprenticeship or other training program is required to co-mediate in this program.

After your application has been processed, prospective Mentees will be invited for an interview. Mentees will be accepted on a rolling basis as pairing with a suitable Mentor becomes available.

For more information and program fees, contact us at mediationmentorship@familykind.org.

