

**Child Inclusive Mediation – pre-course information**

This is an assessed 3 day course with pre-course and post-course reading and assignments.

Entry requirements

Participants must be able to satisfy the following criteria:-

a) Have achieved FMCA status – a copy of your certificate will be required.

b) Have attended an FMC approved one day CIM Awareness and Understanding course – a copy of your certificate will be required.

c) Written support from your PPC for your application to undertake the course.

Level of study

As with the Family Mediation Training (FMT), the course is equivalent to Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) Level 5.

Aim of the course

To equip mediators to be able to promote child inclusive work and the skills and confidence to carry it out appropriately and to the necessary standards as outlined by the Family Mediation Council.

Learning Objectives

* To be up to date on research and thinking informed by young people themselves
* To understand the importance of giving children a voice and the various ways we can do that
* Feel confident in applying the skills to talk to children
* Learn how to identify and challenge parental alienation

The course content

The course is designed to equip you to consult children during a mediation case. It is a mix of knowledge, skills and application, all of which will be assessed. Other than the knowledge you have gained during your mediation experience, you are not expected to have any prior knowledge or experience of working with children, although of course this would be valuable. You will be given information on research, legislation and best practice guidelines. You will be taught how to make best practice decisions on which cases are suitable for this work and which are not, how to prepare parents and children and then how to consult the children. Although there is no absolute minimum age for children to be consulted in this setting, the course is aimed to teach the skills for consulting children around 5 years old and above.

Teaching methods

Approximately 9 hours of pre-course study is required – this consists of directed reading and tasks in preparation for the course. The course is in a 3 day block, each day containing 7 hours of learning. Following the course, there will be session notes to write up, a post-course assignment and further reading which should take approximately 10 hours.

During the 3 days, there will be a mix of teaching methods – lecture, discussion, experiential role-play, demonstrations etc.

After the course

Once you have passed the on course and post course assessments, you will be sent a certificate. You must register with the FMC as trained in CIM and you will then be able to undertake child consultations on your own.

If you have not yet fully reached the required standards to pass the course, your trainer will discuss your options going forward. An opportunity to re-submit written work will be given and will have a small administrative cost. Re-attendance of the 3 day course will be charged at the full rate.

Ongoing requirements

Every 3 years, when you apply for re-accreditation with the FMC, you will need to show you have attended a one day update specifically on Child Inclusive Mediation plus 5 hours professional development (10 hours in total). You will also need to keep records of the cases you have undertaken so that you can show you have consulted the children in 3 separate cases during the 3 year period. This is on top of your standard minimum 15 hours mediation practice.

You or the organisation you are working for must have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place before you undertake this work.

DBS checks

The FMC is not currently allowed to insist that all mediators working with children should have up to date DBS checks as mediators are not on the DBS list. This situation may change in the future. NFM recommends you do have one for your own credibility but appreciates this is not always easy to obtain.

Supervision

You will need to be supervised for this work by a PPC who is also CIM accredited. You can use a different PPC if your current PPC is not accredited but you will need to talk to them about how this will work and any costs etc.