

Course Outline

Professional Practice Consultancy in Family Mediation

Distance Learning, Self Study Course

Rationale

Distance learning will provide flexibility for course participants, allowing them to study at their own pace. It is also a cost-effective way of learning, without the need for travel and accommodation costs. The course will be taken via the NFM online classroom on Moodle, therefore a level of computer literacy is required.

Competency will be measured by means of assessed work. There will also be work-based learning and directed reading.

Participants will be FMC recognised to practise as supervisors on successful completion of the course.

The online course covers 15 learning hours and consists of 4 Units. This includes study, assignment writing and practical tasks such as

- To carry out an interview with your PPC
- To carry out a supervision session
- To attend a live discussion event

Suggested Timescale

To get the most out of the course and to gain fully from the trainer support, we suggest you allow 3 weeks per Unit to be able to fit in with your busy life. So, your portfolio can be signed off as complete within 3 months.

If you need a short extension of time to complete the course, you need to discuss an extension with your trainer.

It is not expected that studying for this course would take longer than 1 year.

Course Outline

The aim of the course is to equip you with an understanding of the role of a supervisor within family mediation and to develop the knowledge and skills to allow you to practise as a professional Practice Consultant (PPC) with Family Mediation Council (FMC) recognition. By the end of the course you will have:

- Gained knowledge and understanding of the role of a PPC in family mediation.
- Explored the three main aspects of supervision ie accountability, training and development and support.
- Considered the role and competencies required in facilitating mediators to be trained and become recognised as competent for the purposes of NFM, the Family Mediation Council and the Legal Aid Agency.
- Identified ways to facilitate the development of mediator practice.

This course consists of four units; with 5 assessed assignments to complete.

This course will require a certain level of academic rigour and we will ask for re-submissions of work if the use of English is poor and the writing makes it impossible to establish if the criteria have been met. Experience suggests that poorly written English is frequently a result of carelessness or lack of thorough proofreading rather than just an inability to write well.

The work must be your own. We will report any situation where plagiarised content is detected so please take care to quote or paraphrase correctly if used.

Unit 1 – Introduction to Supervision

By the end of Unit, you will have:

- An understanding about the Professional Practice Consultant role and responsibilities and will have reflected on the strengths and skills you bring to the role according to Family Mediation Council standards and guidance.
- Linking the value of reflective practice to the role of the supervisor and supervisee.
- Considered a PPC's role in managing confidentiality, data protection and safeguarding in a supervision session.
- Increased your knowledge and understanding of the supervisory relationship and development of your own supervisory style
- Identified and examined key aspects of a PPC's role in ensuring accountability and maintaining high professional standards of practice
- Evaluated your strengths and needs in becoming a PPC and what the role requires
- Developed your knowledge and understanding of Family Mediation Council and LAA consultancy requirements for supervising mediators

Unit 2 – Supervision Models

By the end of Unit, you will have:

- Examined a supervision model that relates to the mediation field.
- Considered supervision styles and reflected on the effectiveness of your own style.
- Considered emotional resilience including stress and burnout, client behaviours and the effect of the pandemic.
- Developed your knowledge of the purpose of and formats for recording supervision
- Have undertaken a supervision session in the role of a PPC with a mediation colleague

Unit 3 – Maintaining standards for accreditation & re-accreditation

By the end of Unit 3, you will have :

- Examined the PPC support role in the accreditation and re-accreditation process according to the Family Mediation Council's standards.
- Have an increased understanding of the development needs of trainee mediators, the process leading to accreditation and the role of a PPC in this
- Read tips for the PPC when considering the portfolio content and managing the observation of a supervisee.
- Considered the actions for mediators and PPCs at re-accreditation and returning to practice.
- Developed your understanding of your own learning needs as a PPC and maintaining your registration as a PPC

Unit 4 – Supervision Process

By the end of Unit 4, you will have :

- Examined a supervision agreement and considered its importance in the supervision process
- Read about managing group and online supervision
- Looked at why secondary PPCs are needed
- Increased your understanding of a PPC's role in managing complaints, maintaining high professional standards and protecting the public
- Demonstrated awareness of issues relating to supervision
- Attended a live session with other PPCs