



# FAMILY MEDIATOR NATIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

## INTRODUCTION

Family Mediation Canada / Médiation Familiale Canada (FMC) is the national association for conflict resolution specifically focused on family mediation. FMC is dedicated to offering Canadian families alternatives to resolving conflicts by supporting the work and efforts of our members. With your membership in FMC and Certification as a mediator, you will be joining many professionals from across the nation in their efforts to educate and offer Canadian families effective, alternative forms of conflict resolution. FMC has become the leading body for the field of mediation on an international basis and members only are given the opportunity to seek national FMC mediator certification. FMC's national certification program is focused on turning out qualified and trained mediators. Considering this, the Family Mediator Certification Program is unique in that there is a rigorous training process and a thorough assessment of the Candidate's mediation skills in keeping with the high standards that FMC lays out for its mediators in its Code of Professional Conduct and guidelines. Our certification program puts strong emphasis on skills assessments for each candidate.

The following are some of the unique features of FMC's Family Mediator Certification Program which set it apart from other forms of mediator recognition/courses:

- A minimum of 80 hours of basic conflict resolution & mediation training and at least an additional 100 hours of further education & training in specific areas of family issues is mandatory.
- An approved mediation practicum is necessary or, in lieu of, two positive peer evaluations from experienced family mediators.
- For Advanced level certification the candidate must successfully complete:
  - a video-taped mediation role-play along with a written self-assessment of their mediation skills
  - a written final examination.
- Continuing education hours are required to maintain certification status.

## Family Mediator National Certification Designations Available:

**Family Relations Mediator, FMC Cert FRM Standard or Advanced (ADV)**

**Comprehensive Family Mediator, FMC Cert CFM Standard or Advanced (ADV)**

## GETTING STARTED

### What is the process to become a FMC Certified Family Mediator?

- Candidates wishing to pursue the FMC Certified Family Mediator designation must first become a member of FMC (application for membership is available at [Benefits of Membership | Family Mediation Canada \(fmc.ca\)](https://www.fmc.ca) or contact the FMC office).
- Following that, members must complete the Certification Application Form which can be submitted online. Information for that can be found at: [FMC Certification Process | Family Mediation Canada](https://www.fmc.ca)

### Practicum requirement

Please note that in order to complete the certification process the Practicum Requirement must be met. Candidates are expected to have completed a 30-hour supervised practicum. If the candidate has been a practicing family mediator for at least 2 years, in lieu of a completion of a practicum, they may submit two positive peer evaluations from references who have mediation experience and knowledge of the candidate's mediation practices. For certification as a Comprehensive Family Mediator the candidate's mediation practice or practicum must include substantial experience assisting with financial issues in the context of separation.

### What is the process for obtaining certification?

- Acceptance of Certification Application.
- Proof of Mediation Practicum or Mediation Experience
- Letters of Reference (FMC certified mediators who have observed candidate's mediation)

For Advanced level certification:

- Completion and submission of a mediation role-play video.
- Personal skills assessment of the mediation video.
- Final written examination.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *How long does it take to become FMC certified?*

We have created two options for mediators who want to become certified.

**Option A:** Applicants who choose this option can apply to complete the entire certification process within one year and pay the associated fees, at a reduced rate. The successful applicants will use the following designations: Family Relation Mediator Advanced (FRM ADV), or Comprehensive Family Mediator Advanced (CFM ADV)

**Option B:** Our new second option is to apply for two-part certification. It is divided into Standard certification first, paying the associated fees, which ensures that a new mediator has all the education and training and practicum requirements which are found on our application form. Depending on the type of certification they apply for, their designation will be: Family Relation Mediator Standard (FRM Standard) or Comprehensive Family Mediator Standard (CFM Standard).

Once the Standard level has been achieved, the mediator can apply for the next level which is referred to as the Advanced level and pay the associated fees. At this stage, the mediator provides the required mediation role play video for assessment and then writes the written exam. Once the applicant has successfully completed the requirements the mediator will use the following designations: FRM ADV or CFM ADV

***How does the FMC Certification Program differ from accreditation offered by the provincial family mediation organizations?***

FMC's certification process is known throughout Canada and is transportable from one legal jurisdiction to another. Provincial governments and judges are keen to ensure that court-connected mediators offer safe, professional mediation services in compliance with national professional practice and training standards. FMC family mediation certification is increasingly being required of family mediators who wish to work in close proximity with courts.

***How does FMC verify the hours of training?***

The Certifying Assessor reviews the candidate's list of trainers and courses in detail and the completed statutory declaration verifying the accuracy of the contents of the application.

***Must I carry special liability insurance if I am a Certified Mediator?***

Yes. Your declaration of this is a condition of your annual maintenance. Insurance should be in the amount of no less than \$1 million aggregate. FMC provides access to the insurer: [Insurance | Family Mediation Canada \(fmc.ca\)](https://www.familymediationcanada.com/insurance)

## **FEES**

See the current fee schedule at: [FMC Certification Application | Family Mediation Canada](https://www.familymediationcanada.com/certification-application)

## **CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE**

Certified members are required to:

- renew their FMC membership annually
- maintain a minimum number of hours of continuing education in family mediation
- maintain insurance coverage in the amount of \$1 million aggregate

## ***Why Certify?***

- Professional development
- Stay ahead of government standards/requirements
- Quality mark for consumers
- Competitive edge as consumer awareness increases
- Credential supporting higher fee structure and marketing of professional practice
- Personal satisfaction in achievement
- Marketing tool of FMC website listing and profile

# CERTIFICATION PREREQUISITES

## CERTIFIED FAMILY RELATIONS MEDIATOR STANDARD

At least 80 hours of basic conflict resolution and mediation theory education and skills training, including intercultural training, AND at least 100 hours of further related education and training including:

- At least 35 hours of training on the family dynamics of separation and divorce
- At least 14 hours relating to family and child law
- At least 21 hours of training including instruction on power imbalances and the dynamics and effects of family abuse on family members
- At least 7 hours training on financial issues relating to separation, divorce and family reorganization
- At least 7 hours of training on ethical issues relating to the mediation process
- At least 7 hours on drafting memoranda of understanding

## CERTIFIED FAMILY RELATIONS MEDIATOR ADVANCED

The second level of certification (Advanced) requires the applicant to pass a written exam and a role play which is then assessed by qualified mediator assessors. This Advanced level allows the applicant to display the knowledge of the skills required of a mediator and obtain feedback for self-assessment and improvement. The rigorous evaluation makes FMC certification credible in the marketplace.

## CERTIFIED COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY MEDIATOR STANDARD

At least 80 hours of basic conflict resolution and mediation theory education and skills training, including intercultural training AND at least 150 hours of further related education and training including:

- At least 35 hours of training on the family dynamics of separation and divorce
- At least 14 hours on child law: custody, access, guardianship, support, child protection and abduction law
- At least 21 hours of training including instruction on power imbalances and the dynamics and effects of family abuse on family members
- At least 42 hours training on legal and financial issues relating to separation, divorce and family reorganization
- At least 7 hours of training on ethical issues relating to the mediation process
- At least 7 hours on drafting memoranda of understanding

## CERTIFIED COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY MEDIATOR ADVANCED

The second level of certification (Advanced) requires the applicant to pass a written exam and a role play which is then assessed by qualified mediator assessors. This Advanced level allows the applicant to display the knowledge of the skills required of a mediator and obtain feedback for self-assessment and improvement. The rigorous evaluation makes FMC certification credible in the marketplace.

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