

Separating Couples Mediation Training: Course Content

Level 1: Family mediation generic training

- **Family Dynamics**
 - Family dynamics: structural issues and roles
 - Patterns of relating and interactions between family members
 - Family Systems Theory using systemic perspectives within mediation, with reference to Dr Murray Bowen's Family Systems Theory (1950), Wayne Regina (2011), Bill Eddy (2014).
 - Culture and diversity issues in family mediation
 - Family bereavement and loss
 - Family mediation models – Facilitative, transformative, evaluative and narrative mediation models

- **Principles of Mediation within a family context**
 - Mediation Act 2017
 - Self-determination
 - Confidentiality
 - Impartiality
 - Voluntariness

- **Family Conflict**
 - Dynamics of Conflict.
 - High conflict cases
 - Intervention techniques
 - Self-Awareness in Conflict.
 - Managing the Process in High Conflict Cases.
 - De-escalation Techniques.
 - Appropriate and Safe Termination of cases

Level 2: Separating couples mediation specialist training

- **Separating Couples Dynamics & Conflict**
 - Couple relationships, including beginning, maintaining and ending the relationship in the context of mediation negotiations.
 - Grief and loss for separating couples
 - The complexity of third-party support, advice and information (both professional and non-professional, formal and informal) and its contribution to the narrative brought to mediation.
 - How conflict can manifest in a family
 - Effect of Conflict on Families.
 - Effect of Conflict on Children.
 - Couple Dynamics and Conflict.
 - How to Talk to Parents about Conflict
 - Mediating in high conflict and emotional situations

- **Family Mediation Processes**
 - Facilitative, evaluative, transformative or narrative mediation models
 - The role of the mediator
 - The family mediation process
 - The structure of mediation sessions from contact to conclusion

- **Intimate Partner Violence**
 - Domestic Violence Legislation.
 - Power and control issues within couple dynamics.
 - Intimate Partner Violence Policy and its application.
 - Intimate Partner Violence Screening Process.
 - Safe termination of mediation
 - Mediator safety and wellbeing.

- **Child Focused Mediation**
 - The place of the child in separation and the mediation process
 - Child Development.
 - Overview of Child Inclusive Mediation.
 - Attachment: children, parents, and caregivers.
 - The effect of conflict on children.
 - The effect of separation on children from blended families and their inclusion in future planning.
 - Techniques for Child focused mediation
 - Negotiating future arrangements for their children.
 - Drafting a Parenting Plan.

- **Child Protection**
 - Child Protection Legislation, Policy and Procedures.
 - Recognising child protection issues
 - Screening for child protection
 - Managing the mediation where an issue arises
 - Reporting structures
 - When and How to Report

- **Family Law and Separating Couples Mediation**
 - Legislative framework of family law
 - Basic understanding of the Family Court System.
 - Mediation Act: relevance to Separating Couples mediation.
 - Legislation relevant to Marriage, Civil Partnership & Co-Habitation; Termination of Marriage; Nullity, Separation, Judicial Separation & Divorce
 - Child Protection legislation and procedure,
 - Guardianship of Children
 - Children's Act.
 - Domestic Violence legislation,
 - Family Home
 - Maintenance
 - succession rights
 - and other legal information

- **Mediating Living Apart**
 - Mediating housing needs for the family
 - Mortgages and the separating couple
 - Negotiating what happens to the family home

- **Mediating financial arrangements**
 - Financial matters of separation and divorce
 - Full and mutual disclosure
 - Budget Session.
 - How to negotiate Maintenance Issues.
 - Understanding Tax.
 - Dealing with Companies and other assets.
 - Social Welfare.
 - Negotiating the Family Home.
 - Pensions.

- **Drawing up Mediation Settlements (Non-legally trained mediators must take a refresher drafting programme each two years, through MII CPD, or equivalent)**
 - Drafting skills
 - Drafting a mediation settlement.
 - Useful templates.
 - Legal Advice: When and Where is it Required?
 - Mediation Act Obligations.
 - Legally and non-legally binding agreements
 - Components of legally binding agreements
 - Financial Statements and Documentation.
 - Signing the Agreement.