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
  - 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.