

## **Established Family Mediator Policy**

**Applicants under the Established Family Mediator Criteria, will fall into one of the following categories:**

- I. Family Relations or Family Law Professionals who have had closely related experience to Family Mediation for twenty (20) years or longer, or;
- II. Individuals who have practiced Family Mediation for ten (10) years or longer.
- III. Individuals who have been accredited, certified or recognized as a professional accredited, certified, or similar designation, family mediator, inside or outside the Province of Ontario, or outside Canada, who have practiced Family Mediation for five (5) years or longer.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

*Individuals from categories (I) (II) and (III) must show;*

- a. Applicants must be an Associate Member of OAFM in good standing;
- b. Applicants must endorse and adhere strictly to the code of professional conduct as set out in the OAFM Standards of Practice and sign the Member Declaration form and provide a copy of this form to the OAFM. No mediator shall venture into an area of practice beyond their own area of expertise;
- c. Applicants must carry insurance which covers the practice of family mediation, with a minimum of \$1,000,000.00. It is the mediator's responsibility to satisfy themselves that their coverage applies to family mediation. The OAFM does not audit or verify insurance coverage held by member mediators, and members are solely responsible in the event of claims should the insurance coverage not apply to the practice of family mediation or apply with limitations to coverage or for any other reason;
- d. Applicants are required to have taken twenty-one (21) hours of education/training for Screening for Family Violence, Abuse and Power Imbalance within two (2) years of their Application, and provide proof of this training to the OAFM. If the training was taken more than two (2) years prior to the application for accreditation, an additional seven (7) hour refreshment course is required;

- e. Applicants are required to submit to the OAFM five (5) reference letters that are required to demonstrate the applicant's dispute resolution skills and proven success record;
- f. Applicants are required to submit a copy of their proposed or actual Agreement to Mediate or Retainer Contract to the OAFM;
- g. Applicants are required to submit to the OAFM five (5) samples of the documents generated from their mediation work, or in the absence of sample work being available, a reasonable explanation of why samples are not available and submission of other types of written materials to support their proficiency in written communication;
- h. Prior to accreditation, at the discretion of the Accreditation Committee, applicants may be required to be interviewed face-to-face, over Zoom, or similar video conferencing application. The purpose of the interview is for the applicant to demonstrate their proficiency in family mediation skills. The Accreditation Committee must agree unanimously that the applicant meets the general intent and purposes of the standard accreditation requirements, and specifically that they meet all requirements as set out above in theory and in practice; and
- i. Conditional accreditation acceptance may be given, dependent on completion of specific course work that may be given to an Applicant at the discretion of the Accreditation Committee.