

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q. What are the requirements to take the Domestic Violence Mediation training course?

A. In order to take our Domestic Violence Mediation course you must have previously completed Family Mediation.

Q. Can I take your trainings virtually?

A. No, our trainings are offered in-person only.

Q. If I'm from out of town, what hotels are near Spark Downtown?

A. If you need to make hotel reservations, we recommend the following establishments.

- Hilton- Green Hills - 15 minutes to Spark
- Hampton Inn- Green Hills - 15 minutes to Spark
- Courtyard Marriott - Downtown- walking distance to Spark
- Renaissance Hotel - walking distance to Spark

Q. What are the requirements to apply to be listed as a Civil Mediator?

A. On the following page you will find an excerpt from the TNcourts.gov site listing the necessary requirements to apply for listing as a **Civil** Mediator in Tennessee.



The requirements to become a Rule 31 listed general civil mediator are found in Rule 31, §17(a) as follows:

Section 17. Rule 31 Mediators

No person shall act as a Rule 31 Mediator without first being listed by the ADRC. To be listed, Rule 31 Mediators must pay application fees set by the ADRC and must comply with the qualification and training requirements set forth in this section. All training must have been approved by the ADRC as set for in section (f) below and must have been completed within the fifteen years immediately preceding the application seeking Rule 31 Mediator listing. [Amended April 24, 2009]

(a) Rule 31 Mediators in General Civil Cases.

(1) To be listed by the ADRC as a Rule 31 Mediator in general civil cases, one must:

(A) be of good moral character as evidenced by two references accompanying application for listing and certify in writing an intention to comply with the conditions and obligations imposed by Rule 31, including those requirements related to pro bono obligations;

(B) have a graduate degree plus four years of full time practical work experience, or a baccalaureate degree plus six years of full time practical work experience. Full time practical work experience shall be defined as 35 hours or more of work per week; and

(C) complete 40 hours of general mediation training which includes the curriculum components specified by the ADRC for Rule 31 Mediators in general civil cases.

(2) If the applicant's profession requires licensing, the applicant shall also:

(A) be in good standing with the Board or Agency charged with issuing licenses to practice in the applicant's profession. The failure to take or pass an examination required by the Board or Agency will not affect the applicant's standing to apply for listing as a Rule 31 Mediator. A disbarred lawyer or any other professional with a suspended or revoked license may reapply when the applicant has been readmitted to practice. Misconduct shall not include failure to pay board or agency dues when there is no intent by the applicant to practice in the licensed occupation or profession in any jurisdiction other than Tennessee.

(B) not be the subject of three or more open complaints made to the Board or Agency charged with

hearing complaints about the applicant's professional conduct. If there are three or more open complaints with the relevant Board or Agency, the application will be deferred by the ADRC until the applicant has advised the ADRC that three or more open complaints no longer exist.

To read about training waiver requirements, go to Rule 31, §17(d) at: <http://www.tncourts.gov/rules/supreme-court/31>.

Q. What are the requirements to apply to be listed as a Rule 31 Family Mediator?

A. Below you will find an excerpt from the TNcourts.gov site listing the necessary requirements to apply for listing as a **Family Mediator** in Tennessee.

The requirements to become a Rule 31 listed family mediator are found in Rule 31, §17(b) as follows:
Section 17. Rule 31 Mediators

No person shall act as a Rule 31 Mediator without first being listed by the ADRC. To be listed, Rule 31 Mediators must pay application fees set by the ADRC and must comply with the qualification and training requirements set forth in this section. All training must have been approved by the ADRC as set for in section (f) below and must have been completed within the fifteen years immediately preceding the application seeking Rule 31 Mediator listing. [Amended April 24, 2009]

(b) Rule 31 Mediators in Family Cases.

(1) To be listed as a Rule 31 Mediator in family cases, one must:

(A) comply with the requirements set forth in Section 17(a)(1)(A) and 17(a)(2)(A) and 17(a)(2)(B) above; and

(B) be a Certified Public Accountant, have a graduate degree, or have a baccalaureate degree with ten years full time practical work experience in psychiatry, psychology, counseling, family mediation, social work, education, law, or accounting. Full time practical work experience shall be defined as 35 hours or more of work per week;

(C) have four years of full time practical work experience in psychiatry, psychology, counseling, social work, education, law, or accounting. Full time practical work experience shall be defined as 35 hours or more of work per week;

(D) complete 40 hours of training in family mediation which includes the curriculum components specified by the ADRC for Rule 31 Mediators in family cases and which also includes four hours of training in screening for and dealing with domestic violence in the mediation context; and

(E) complete six additional hours of training in Tennessee family law and court procedure. It is

provided, however, that the ADRC may waive this requirement for applicants who have completed at least six hours of ADRC-approved training devoted to Tennessee family law and/or procedure within the three-year period immediately prior to the completion of the requirements of Section 17(c)(3)(A) through (I).

To read about training waiver requirements, go to Rule 31, §17(d) at: <http://www.tncourts.gov/rules/supreme-court/31>.