

Standards of Conduct
Effective Date January 1, 2012

I. Competency: A mediator shall maintain professional competency in mediation skills and, where the mediator lacks the skills necessary for a particular case, shall decline to serve or withdraw from serving.

- A. A mediator's most important qualification is the mediator's competence in procedural aspects of facilitating the resolution of disputes rather than the mediator's familiarity with technical knowledge relating to the subject of the dispute. Therefore a mediator shall obtain necessary skills and substantive training appropriate to the mediator's areas of practice and upgrade those skills on an ongoing basis.
- B. If a mediator determines that a lack of technical knowledge impairs or is likely to impair the mediator's effectiveness, the mediator shall notify the parties and withdraw if requested by any party.
- C. Beyond disclosure under the preceding paragraph, a mediator is obligated to exercise his/her judgment as to whether his/her skills or expertise are sufficient to the demands of the case and, if they are not, to decline from serving or to withdraw.