

FFS RULES – EFFECTIVE DATE JANUARY 1, 2012

RULE 9. CERTIFICATION OF MEDIATION TRAINING PROGRAMS

- A.** Certified training programs for mediators certified pursuant to Rule 8.A.2.(c) shall consist of a minimum of 40 hours of instruction. The curriculum of such programs shall include the subjects in each of the following sections:
- (1) Conflict resolution and mediation theory;
 - (2) Mediation process and techniques, including the process and techniques typical of family and divorce mediation;
 - (3) Communication and information gathering skills;
 - (4) Standards of conduct for mediators including, but not limited to the Standards adopted by the Supreme Court;
 - (5) Statutes, rules and practice governing mediated settlement conferences conducted pursuant to these Rules;
 - (6) Demonstrations of mediated settlement conferences with and without attorneys involved;
 - (7) Simulations of mediated settlement conferences, involving student participation as mediator, attorneys and disputants, which simulations shall be supervised, observed and evaluated by program faculty;
 - (8) An overview of North Carolina law as it applies to custody and visitation of children, equitable distribution, alimony, child support and post separation support;
 - (9) An overview of family dynamics, the effect of divorce on children and adults and child development;
 - (10) Protocols for the screening of cases for issues of domestic violence and substance abuse; and
 - (11) Satisfactory completion of an exam by all students testing their familiarity with the statutes, rules and practice governing family financial settlement procedures in North Carolina.
- B.** Certified training programs for mediators certified pursuant to Rule 8.A.2.(d) shall consist of a minimum of 16 hours of instruction. The curriculum of such programs shall include the subjects listed in Rule 9.A. There shall be at least two simulations as specified in subsection (7).
- C.** A training program must be certified by the Commission before attendance at such program may be used for compliance with Rule 8.A. Certification need not be given in advance of attendance.

Training programs attended prior to the promulgation of these Rules or attended in other states or approved by the ACR with requirements equivalent to those in effect for the Academy of Family Mediators immediately prior to its merger with

other organizations to become the ACR may be approved by the Commission if they are in substantial compliance with the Standards set forth in this rule. The Commission may require attendees of an ACR approved program to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Rules 9.A.(5) and 9.A.(8) either in the ACR approved training or in some other acceptable course.

- D.** To complete certification, a training program shall pay all administrative fees established by the NCAOC in consultation with the Commission.