

Overview of Michigan Court Mediation Roster Qualifications

The following information is provided to help prospective mediators identify the qualifications required for service on courts' general civil and domestic relations mediation rosters. The qualifications are derived from MCR 2.411, MCR 3.216, and the Mediator Training Standards and Procedures.¹

General Civil Mediation

Three different means of becoming qualified to serve on general civil mediation rosters. By far the most common is to complete the general civil court rule training, the first of the three options.

1. General Civil Court Rule Training (MCR 2.411(F)(2))

This is the most commonly offered training program and is generally referred to as “court rule training” for general civil mediation.

- Completion of a mediator training program approved by the State Court Administrative Office. A calendar of training programs is maintained at: <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/other/mtplst.htm>
- Have a juris doctor degree or graduate degree in conflict resolution or 40 hours of mediation experience over two years.
- Observe two general civil mediation proceedings conducted by an approved mediator, and conduct one general civil mediation to conclusion under the supervision of an approved mediator.

2. Michigan Community Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) Training

Some training programs, while not “court rule approved,” nevertheless offer a means of qualifying for service on court rosters. Note that in addition to completing this program, prospective roster applicants must complete a 6-hour program on Michigan law and court process.

- CDRP 40-hour training. These programs are only infrequently offered. Please consult the list of CDRP centers for local center contact information: <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/odrmaps/>
- Observation of two general civil mediations, conducting one mediation under the supervision of an approved mediator. If not an attorney, 40 hours or 18 cases of mediation experience in the two years prior to application to serve on a roster.
- If training was more than two years prior to the application, eight hours of advanced mediator training in the two years prior to application to serve on a roster.
- If not a Michigan licensed lawyer, a 6-hour program addressing basic laws, rules and guidelines governing Michigan civil actions. These programs are only infrequently offered.

¹ The Mediation Training and Standards document can be located at this link: <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/standards/odr/TrainingStandards2005.pdf>

Please consult the list of CDRP centers for local center contact information:

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/odrmaps/>

3. Mediation Training Outside of Michigan

The following qualifications relate to completing a mediation training program outside of Michigan.

- 40-hour mediator training program approved by a court or agency targeted to prepare persons to serve as mediators for general civil cases.
- If training was more than two years prior to the application, eight hours of advanced mediator training in the two years prior to application to serve on a roster.
- Observation of two general civil mediations, conducting one mediation under the supervision of an approved mediator. If not an attorney, 40 hours or 18 cases of mediation experience in the two years prior to application to serve on a roster.
- If not a Michigan licensed lawyer, a 6-hour program addressing basic laws, rules, and guidelines governing Michigan civil actions. These programs are only infrequently offered.

Please consult the list of CDRP centers for local center contact information:

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/odrmaps/>

Domestic Relations Mediation

Two different means of becoming qualified to serve on domestic relations mediation rosters appear below. Under either instance, unless the applicant can demonstrate completion of 80 hours or 20 cases in domestic relations mediation, an applicant must (a) be a licensed attorney, a licensed or limited licensed psychologist, a licensed professional counselor, or a licensed marriage and family therapist; or (b) have a masters degree in counseling, social work, or marriage and family therapy; or (c) have a graduate degree in a behavioral science; or (d) have 5 years experience in family counseling, and one of the following:

1. Domestic Relations Court Rule Training (MCR 3.216)

A domestic relations mediator training program approved by the State Court Administrative Office. A calendar of training programs is maintained at:

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/other/mtplst.htm>

- Observation of two domestic relations mediations and conducting one mediation under the supervision of an approved mediator.
- 4-hour domestic violence screening training program.
- If training was more than two years prior to the application, eight hours of advanced mediator training in the two years prior to application to serve on a roster.

2. Mediation Training Outside of Michigan

The following qualifications relate to completing a mediation training program outside of Michigan.

- An approved Association of Conflict Resolution 40-hour training program.
- Observation of two domestic relations mediations and conducting one mediation under the supervision of an approved mediator.

- 4-hour domestic violence screening training program.
- If not a Michigan licensed lawyer, a 6-hour program addressing basic laws, rules, and guidelines governing Michigan domestic relations actions. These programs are only infrequently offered.
- If training was more than two years prior to the application, eight hours of advanced mediator training in the two years prior to application to serve on a roster.

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