Course Title: Family Law Mediation

Course web page: http://www.collin.edu/ce/courses/fam_law_mediation.html

Course Description: Understand the expertise for the advanced use of mediation in a variety of family law related matters. Explore varying elements of family law mediation that include dissolution of marriage, suits affecting the parent child relationship, conservatorship, child support, parental rights and division of assets. Discuss case law surrounding such practices, and approaches to mediate in this context. This program complies with both the Texas statutory requirement for mediation training (Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code Ann.), as well as the Texas Mediation Trainers Roundtable Standards for Family Mediation Training.

Suggested Course Prerequisite(s): Mediation and Dispute Resolution Certificate Training

Course Objectives:
1. Understand the expertise for the advanced use of mediation in a variety of family law related matters.
2. Explore varying elements of family law mediation that include dissolution of marriage, suits affecting the parent child relationship, conservatorship, child support, parental rights and division of assets.
3. Discuss case law surrounding such practices, and approaches to mediate in this context.

Lesson Plan – by week or session
TMTR Standards for Family Mediation Training
The following six main topics should be covered. Also included are recommended time allocations and the various issues which might be included under each topic:
1. Family Law (minimum of 4 hours)
   1. Overview of legal system and terms relating to family law
      1. History and evolution of legal rights of parents
      2. Parentage (never married parents)
      3. Suits affecting the parent-child relationship (SAPCR)
      4. Dissolution of marriage
      5. Adult guardianship
   2. Allocation of resources
      1. Itemization, characterization, valuation and division of assets and liabilities
      2. Finances
      3. Taxes
   3. Parenting Plans
      1. Conservatorship
      2. Parental rights and duties
3. Parental access
4. Child support
5. Non-parental access (grandparents, etc.)
6. Special issues of children with disabilities

2. Family Dynamics (minimum of 3 hours)
   1. Family Systems
   2. Blended Families
   3. Psychological aspects of divorce and parenting

3. Child Development (minimum of 2 hours)
   1. Stages of development
   2. Impact and response to divorce

4. Family Violence (minimum of 4 hours)
   1. Screening
   2. Impact of statutory requirements
   3. Dynamics of family violence patterns, including power imbalances
   4. Effect of family violence on children
   5. Child abuse
   6. Substance abuse
   7. Stalking
   8. Protective orders
   9. Reporting laws and procedures
   10. Anger management
   11. Mediation safety plans, including caucus models
   12. Violent children

5. Practice Considerations
   1. Ethics (minimum of 2 hours)
   2. Agreement memorialization
   3. Unauthorized practice of law (UPL)
   4. Pro se cases
   5. Enforcement
   6. Styles-of-mediation
   7. Self-awareness
   8. Impact of cultural differences

6. Skills
   1. Communication
   2. Relationship-building
   3. Information gathering
   4. Problem solving
   5. Conflict resolution theory
   6. Referrals to professional support services (such as, social study/psychological evaluation, therapy, parenting education program, anger management counseling, family violence shelter, certified financial planning, certified public accounting, etc.)

7. Role Play: 6 hours minimum (including demonstrations, simulations, debriefing)
**Course Sessions:** listed are a guideline to indicate all topics that will be covered during your course. Do not plan your personal calendar based on these sessions. Your instructor will give you a calendar for your class that will indicate specific topics, assignments, and days.

**Method of Evaluation:** Unless otherwise stated, course completion is evaluated on the basis of attendance. Students must be in attendance 90% of the class time in order to be considered a successful completer of the course.

Students must be in attendance 90% of **each course** in a certificate series for successful completion and to earn a certificate as specified.

Students must complete all courses (core and no. of elective courses needed) to **complete a certificate series within two years** from start date of the first course taken.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** Collin College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the ACCESS office, SCC-G200 or 972.881.5898 (V/TTD: 972.881.5950) to arrange for appropriate accommodations. See the current Collin Student Handbook for additional information.

http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/personal/studenthandbook.aspx