

## ***Utah Dispute Resolution***

# **Summary of Requirements for the Family Mediator Roster**

Utah Dispute Resolution (UDR) maintains a roster of qualified mediators to meet the demand for family mediations involving low-income clients. Currently, the roster is limited to 20-25 mediators. The number of mediators on this roster may change at the discretion of UDR as the demand for family mediation and mediator availability change. UDR will accept applications from interested mediators on a continual basis. These applications will be kept on file until openings become available. When an opening is available, candidates will be assessed according to the criteria below.

### **Basic Requirements**

All candidates for the UDR Family Mediation Roster must meet the following basic requirements for training, experience, and qualifications.

#### *Required Training*

Candidates should have:

- Completed Basic Mediator Training from a Utah court-approved training program or equivalent program that meets the minimum standards defined by the court. (32-hour training prior to 2005; 40-hour training after June 2005)
- Completed Divorce Mediator Training from a Utah court-approved training program or equivalent program that meets the minimum standards defined by the court. (24-hour training prior to 2005; 32-hour training 2005 or later)
- Completed a minimum of 6 hours continuing education mediation training (3 hours in family-related topics) within the last year if the most recent training occurred over one year ago.

#### *Required Experience*

Candidates should have:

- Conducted a minimum of 50 hours (or 50 cases) of formal mediation involving any type of dispute, such as small claims, landlord-tenant, employment disputes, etc. (Informal mediation experience will be considered at the discretion of UDR.) A maximum of 15 hours of this mediation experience may be acquired as a co-mediator. Observation hours may not be included in the total number of hours required.
- Demonstrated experience with conflicts involving high emotion.

#### *Required Minimum Qualifications*

Candidates should be:

- Listed on the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Mediator Roster as a “basic mediator.”
- Approved to mediate domestic cases by the AOC prior to receiving any solo assignments for UDR family cases.
- Able to write mediated agreements or memoranda of understanding as shown by samples submitted by the candidate.

### **Qualifying Process**

Applicants who meet the basic requirements above may be considered for the family mediator roster. UDR may request to observe a candidate as he/she conducts one or two mediations of the candidate’s choice. Candidates who need mentoring in family disputes may be accepted pending completion of a mentoring program that could include an orientation session, observations of family mediations conducted by an experienced mediator, co-mediations with an experienced mediator, and candidate-conducted mediations that are observed by an experienced mediator. In all cases, candidates will participate in debriefing and self-assessment with an experienced mediator.

### **Requirements for Continuing Membership on the UDR Family Roster**

Participants on the Family Mediation Roster must agree to complete at least six mediation cases per year for UDR, with the understanding that many or all of these cases will be done on a pro bono basis. In addition, UDR family mediators must maintain their status on the AOC roster of divorce mediators and participate in meetings and training sessions held for the UDR Family Mediator Roster.