

## Collin College - Continuing Education COURSE SYLLABUS

<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**Course Number:** MEDI 7530

**Course Title:** Family Law Mediation

**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

**Course Resources:** N/A

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

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. .

**Certification Notes:** N/A

**Next course recommendation:** N/A

**Refund Policy:** Please refer to [www.collin.edu/ce/infoRegistrar.html](http://www.collin.edu/ce/infoRegistrar.html) for our refund policy. No refunds after the start time of the first class.

**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-D140 or 972.881.5898 (V/TTD: 972.881.5950) to arrange for appropriate accommodations. See the current *Collin Student Handbook* for additional information.

**Course Sessions:** Listed are guidelines 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.

**Lesson Plan – by week or session:**

1. Family Law (minimum of 4 hours)
  - A. 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
- B. Allocation of resources
  - 1. Itemization, characterization, valuation and division of assets and liabilities
  - 2. Finances
  - 3. Taxes
- C. Parenting Plans
  - 1. Conservatorship
  - 2. Parental rights and duties
  - 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
- D. Family Dynamics (minimum of 3 hours)
  - 1. Family Systems
  - 2. Blended Families
  - 3. Psychological aspects of divorce and parenting
- E. Child Development (minimum of 2 hours)
  - 1. Stages of development
  - 2. Impact and response to divorce
- F. 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
- G. 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
- H. 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.)

Role Play: 6 hours minimum (including demonstrations, simulations, debriefing)

**Method of Evaluation:** Unless otherwise stated, course completion is evaluated on the basis of attendance. Students must be in attendance 90% of each course in a certificate series for successful completion and to earn a certificate as specified.