

**Child Inclusive Mediation “Best Practices”
Child Consultant & Mediator: Training, Education & Competency**

1. Education, Training and Competency
 - A. Child consultants should have the following education and training:
 - a. A minimum of a master’s degree in a mental health field and/or maintain their license with their governing professional board; and,
 - b. A Jennifer McIntosh-based Child Inclusive Mediation Skills training, see http://www.familytransitions.com.au/Family_Transitions/Family_Transitions.html; and,
 - c. A 40-hour Family Mediation training which includes a domestic violence component.
 - B. Mediators who provide Child Inclusive Mediation should have the following education and training:
 - a. Five years active experience doing family mediation; and,
 - b. A Jennifer McIntosh-based Child Inclusive Mediation Skills training ; and,
 - c. A 40-hour Family Mediation training which includes a domestic violence component; and,
 - d. Inclusion on the MN State Court Rule 114 roster of family facilitative (mediation) neutrals.
2. Ongoing Education/Practice Improvement
 - A. Child Consultants and mediators should participate in the following:
 - a. Advanced or supplemental McIntosh based training (as it becomes available); and,
 - b. A consultation group or peer mentoring.
3. Knowledge
 - A. Child Consultants and Mediators should have significant knowledge of all the following:
 - a. Cases involving high conflict and litigating parents
 - b. Alternative dispute resolution processes for family disputes
 - c. Relevant and current family law
 - B. Child Consultants should have advanced knowledge of and experience with, and mediators should have knowledge of all the following:
 - a. Child development, including child needs related to parenting time schedules
 - b. Family dynamics: parent-child dynamics, blended families, and extended family relationships, effects of divorce, child alienation, child maltreatment and the impact of inter-parental conflict on the overall well-being of children and adolescents
 - c. Interviewing children for forensic purposes
 - d. Child and adult psychopathology
 - e. Impact of mental health, chemical dependency and domestic violence on child development