

Free Mediation Training for Court Volunteers

The Arizona Attorney General's Office, Civil Rights Division, in partnership with the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Court, is offering a free, 40-hour basic mediation course to train volunteers to help resolve local court disputes. The Attorney General's Office has been training volunteer mediators for the courts since 1984 and has its own volunteer mediation program for resolving civil rights cases.

Mediators are neutral parties who try to help disputing parties reach agreements in various types of cases. Mediation is a valuable alternative to litigation; it can save time and money and reduce stress.

This training course is open to the public. Those who successfully complete the 40-hour basic mediation training course may then apply to the courts to mediate cases for them on a volunteer basis. The courts have their own volunteer mediator selection process, application procedures and fingerprint/background check to become a volunteer mediator. Disputes to be mediated can include small claims, commercial, truancy and other types of cases, depending on the court program.

The 40-hour basic mediation training will be offered on the following dates/cities:

- **Phoenix – October 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8, 2015. THIS CLASS IS CLOSED – COMPLETELY FULL WITH A LONG WAIT LIST**

Training sessions will run each day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and include a working lunch. Participants must complete all five days of the scheduled training to become eligible to mediate for the courts and to get a certificate of course completion.

You will receive a training manual of reference materials. This training is intended to provide you with the basic knowledge and skills necessary to start mediating with the court mediation programs in Arizona Courts. However, this training does not grant any particular certification. There is currently no state level mediator certification in Arizona. You will receive a certificate of completion of the 40-hour mediation training at the end of the training if you have attended all five days of the training.

A FEW QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

Can I get a job as a mediator after completing this training?

“Don’t quit your day job.” Full time employment in mediation is actually rare; it can certainly be done, but you are encouraged to thoroughly research the field before committing your career path to it. Also, you need to be aware that private mediators have additional requirements by the Arizona Supreme Court if they are not attorneys or working under the supervision of an attorney or court – Certified Legal Document Preparer requirement (See Rule 31, Regulation of the Practice of Law on the Arizona Supreme Court website).

Do you have to be an attorney to take this training?

No, you do not have to be an attorney or have any other specialized background to participate in this training. Mediators can be from all walks of life and through training learn the skills and techniques to assist in resolving disputes.

Does this training qualify for CLE?

We do not have it set up as a CLE course. You need to contact the Arizona State Bar regarding CLE and CLE requirements. We are happy to provide you with a letter that you attended and a copy of the agenda if you wish to petition the CLE granting organization to have the course counted as such.

Space is limited and advanced registration for these trainings is required. For more information on this program contact Adam Glaser (the mediation trainer) at 520-628-6782 or Adam.Glaser@azag.gov or Keena Patel at 602-542-7657 or Keena.Patel@azag.gov