

# Family Mediation Training

Community Mediation Minnesota  
Presented by: Carl Arnold, J.D.

First, a few quick survey questions

- 1) How familiar are you with mediation in general (not specifically family mediation)?
- 2) How familiar are you with family mediation topics?
- 3) What are a few things you really want to get out of this training?

If you feel comfortable with sharing this information, please type your professional background into the chat. (For example, teacher, therapist, attorney, or whatever you've done for work)

If you feel comfortable with sharing this information, please type into the chat the main reason or reasons that you are taking this class.

# Our goals for this family mediation training

- To provide a high-quality introduction to Family Mediation in Minnesota from experienced instructors, including substantial participant role playing in order to explore applying the material to realistic family court scenarios.

# Our goals for this family mediation training

- Create a learning community so that that you can
  - learn with and from others during this training
  - reach out to trainers and other participants from this training after the training to ask questions and share ideas and resources

# What will participants learn during this training?

- By the end of the five days of class, participants will:
  - have a basic understanding and familiarity with family mediation in Minnesota and the resources to further develop their mediation skills through further real-life experience, training and resources.
  - meet the requirements to be, either individually or through a Community Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP), a "Qualified Neutral" on the Minnesota State Court Administrator's "Family Law Facilitative/Hybrid" roster.

# What will participants learn during this training?

- Answer foundational questions like: What does it mean to mediate? What exactly does a mediator "do"? What is the mediator's role (and what is it not)? What are the skills needed to mediate competently? How long does/should a mediation last? How do I know if a mediation was "successful"? How does mediation relate to a Family Court court case?
- Financial topics such as dividing assets and debts, calculating child support, family budgets and negotiating spousal maintenance
- Non-financial topics such as Custody and Parenting Time Schedules (including holidays, vacations, transportation/exchanges, etc.)
- What are the needs and experiences of children affected by the family topics we are mediating?
- How does mediator bias or cultural differences relate to mediation?
- What does a mediator do with high conflict families or things like Coercive Control dynamics or Domestic Abuse?



# What will participants learn during this training? (continued)

- Learn Family Mediation vocabulary (and lots of acronyms!)
- Understand the Family Court process/steps
- An introduction to the law related to Family Court in Minnesota and how they relate to family mediation
- Understand a Mediator's ethical responsibilities, where those responsibilities come from and how they are enforced
- Learn the difference between mediation and co-mediation and how to do both
- What are Community Dispute Resolution Programs (CDRP) and how does my volunteering as a mediator fit into the bigger picture of providing conflict resolution services to different communities in Minnesota.

- Carl Arnold is a leader in the field of Family Law Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as an ADR practitioner and ADR educator.
- Carl has taught many certified basic training classes for Civil and Family Mediation and presented on various ADR topics at the annual ADR Institute, annual Family Law Institute, Collaborative Law Institute Annual Forum and to several bar associations.
- From his office in Northfield, Minnesota, Carl provides Family Mediation, SENE/FENE, Collaborative Divorce and Custody Evaluation services in-person and all across Minnesota on Zoom.
- Carl Arnold has a strong background in safety issues related to parenting. For 5 years ending in the spring of 2015, Mr. Arnold was the primary attorney appointed for parents in Child In Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) and Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) cases in Rice County.

Carl Arnold, J.D.



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# Training Materials

- Participants attending Day 1 (Thursday, October 5) are encouraged, but not required, to purchase a copy of The Mediator's Handbook: Revised & Expanded fourth edition, October 1, 2012
- All other training materials will be posted to this website or emailed.  
<https://www.arnoldlawmediation.com/familytrainingmaterials-2024.html>

# Daily Training Agenda

- Each day of training will begin at 8am and end at 5pm on Zoom.
- We'll have a 15 minute break each morning and each afternoon.
- We'll have a 30 minute lunch break at noon each day.
- You must attend the full class to be a qualified neutral

# Daily Training Agenda (cont.)

- Please feel free to take small breaks as needed (within reason)
- This is not a class where you can work while passively listening to the instructors. We expect active participation from all students.
- Active participation in role playing (“experiential learning”) is an integral and important part of the learning experience and is required by the state certification rules for this class.
- Role play coaches will be present for some role plays to provide participants supportive feedback and to generate further discussion related to the learning goals.

**Review daily schedule for each day**