



# FMC Newsletter

March 2017

## Recent Developments

### LAA Contracts 2018

The LAA has announced that it will replace the current family mediation contracts with new contracts in April 2018. You can read about the LAA's published intentions for mediation contracts [here](#). The FMC is liaising with the LAA to try to ensure the new contracts reflect recent changes to professional standards, are practical, and are not too onerous for family mediators. The rate of pay under the new contracts is not something that the LAA is able to discuss at this stage, but the FMC will approach the MoJ about this separately, emphasising, amongst other things, that the pay rates for family mediation have not increased for over 15 years.

### Consent Orders

A brief analysis of the consultation about mediators drafting Consent Orders was, perhaps unsurprisingly, inconclusive. Very broadly, there were some polarised responses with people expressing absolute views either in support of or opposed to mediators drafting consent orders, and some responses in between, such as 'drafting consent orders is appropriate only in limited circumstances' and 'it is possible to draft consent orders without giving advice in theory but not practice'. A summary of responses will be published in due course. Meanwhile, the FMC is continuing to consult interested parties about the issue.

### Re-registration

With re-registration drawing to a close, there are now 982 mediators registered with the FMC, with 687 of those who are accredited. There has been a drop in the numbers of people working towards accreditation. We have asked those who have chosen not to re-register to tell us the reasons for their decision, so that where possible we can learn from this experience.

The process of adding everybody's core information to the Register and therefore the FMC website will shortly be completed, whereupon mediators' supplementary practising addresses will be added until the register is fully populated.

The details of mediators who have not re-registered will shortly be removed from the register, meaning they will no longer have a URN, will have their details removed from the FMC website and, if they were accredited, will no longer be able to sign court forms. We have written to all such accredited mediators individually. If you are aware of anyone who wishes to re-register but has not done so, please ask them to e-mail [register@familymediationcouncil.org.uk](mailto:register@familymediationcouncil.org.uk) urgently.

Knowing the number of registrants has helped the FMC and FMSB to confirm the financial plan for the current year. We still have a modest sum retained from the grant made by the MoJ two years ago for setting up the regulatory system. That should enable us to maintain our development work during 2017. For the future, though, we will need to rely more on registrants' fees to sustain both regulatory and representational activities for the profession. As the year goes on we will work up financial proposals for the future, including options for registration fees.

## Verification

The FMSB is continuing to verify the information held in the register to ensure its accuracy. This is a lengthy process, which has started with verification of FMCA status or, if working towards accreditation, then completion of an appropriate training course. The FMSB will shortly be verifying that all mediators are members of one of the FMC's six Member Organisations and will also be verifying additional information such as PPC status, by writing and requesting relevant certificates from mediators who have this status.

## Updating your details

If any of your registration details, including contact details, change, or if you gain additional qualifications such as PPC status during the course of the year, please remember to let us know by e-mailing [register@familymediationcouncil.org.uk](mailto:register@familymediationcouncil.org.uk) so that the FMC Register can be updated.

# Recruitment

## FMSB Members

The FMC is recruiting three independent (that is, non-mediator) members and two family mediator members to sit on the FMSB.

## FMC Directors

The FMC is recruiting two directors: a treasurer, and a further co-opted director.

If you are interested and have the appropriate skills and experience for any of the above roles, we would love to hear from you. Please see the [FMC website](#) for more details. Even if the roles are not for you, please help us reach those who would be interested by passing on the details to colleagues.

## Upcoming events

- 4 May 2017, [Resolution training: Untangling the knot](#), London
- 4 May 2017, College of Mediators' North West Mediation Network Meeting, Burnley. For more information e-mail: [info@solutiontalk.co.uk](mailto:info@solutiontalk.co.uk)
- 10 May 2017, College of Mediators' South East Mediation Network Meeting, London. For more information e-mail: [magrob521@msn.com](mailto:magrob521@msn.com)
- 18 May 2017, [Family Matters Mediation: Understanding and Responding to the mental health needs of children and teenagers](#), Doncaster
- 19 May 2017, [Resolution training: Turning enquiries into mediations](#), London
- 6 June 2017, [Resolution PPC Networking Day](#), London
- 15 June 2017, College of Mediators' Annual Conference – Celebrating 21 Years! London. Details available from [admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk](mailto:admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk)
- 19 – 20 September 2017, FMA Annual Conference, York University. Details available from [info@thefma.co.uk](mailto:info@thefma.co.uk)
- 21 September 2017, College of Mediators' PPC Conference, Loughborough. Details available from [admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk](mailto:admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk)
- 19 – 20 October 2017, [Resolution's Dispute Resolution Conference 2017](#), Nottingham. Details to follow in due course.

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