



Important Information for Family Mediators about the new FMC Standards for Child-Inclusive Mediation

Last year the FMC accepted the recommendations of its working group on Child-Inclusive Mediation (CIM). The FSMB is tasked with implementing these and, last autumn, consulted mediators on the timetable for the introduction of new standards and training requirements.

The arrangements for CIM have now been finalised. All family mediators need to be aware of the new requirements in relation to CIM. These are set out below.

Terminology

We are aware of some uncertainty about the use of the terms Direct Consultation with Children (DCC) and Child-Inclusive Mediation (CIM). For some people, these terms have very distinct and separate meanings; for others, the terms are used interchangeably.

The FMC has adopted the term Child-Inclusive Mediation to mean mediators who are trained to see children as part of the family mediation process. This includes those mediators who have (or will have, by 31.8.18) attended a two day course (which may have been called DCC or, more recently, CIM) as well as those who will attend the new three day course.

Requirements for mediators in relation to new CIM standards

Mediators currently working towards accreditation

If you submit your portfolio before 1.9.19, you will need to attend a one day CIM Awareness and Understanding Course run by an approved FMC foundation or CIM training provider before your first re-accreditation date.

If you submit your portfolio on or after 1.9.19, you will need to have attended a one day CIM Awareness and Understanding Course run by an approved FMC foundation or CIM training provider before you submit your portfolio.

Accredited mediators who are not CIM trained at 1.9.18

You must attend a one day CIM Awareness and Understanding Course run by an approved FMC foundation or CIM training provider by 1.1.20 or your first post 2018 re-accreditation date, whichever is the later.

Accredited mediators who are DCC/CIM trained at 1.9.18

You must attend a one day CIM Update course run by an FMC approved CIM training provider by 1.1.20 or your first post 2018 re-accreditation date, whichever is the later.

In addition, you must adhere to new CIM CPD requirements from 1.1.19 which are

- Over a three year period, to carry out at least 10 hours CIM specific professional development, 5 hours of which should normally be by attending a course advertised as suitable for CIM professional development. The remaining 5 hours professional development could be acquired in a number of ways such as attending further training courses, conferences or workshops, reading or writing relevant material; and
- Over a three year period, to carry out 3 child inclusive mediations; and
- Have a PPC who is also a CIM mediator. This PPC may be separate from and additional to your existing PPC, if your existing PPC is not CIM trained and practising;

For accredited mediators who are CIM trained prior to 1.9.18, the CIM Update Day will count as CPD towards your CIM on-going training requirements.

New CIM training

After 1.9.18 CIM courses must be run by an FMC approved CIM course provider.

The courses will be a minimum of three days in length, involve further study outside of the course, and will be assessed. Full course requirements are set out in the FMC Standards Framework.

To attend this course, mediators must first have attended a one day CIM Awareness and Understanding Course.

After attending the new CIM training, mediators will need to register with the FMSB as a Child-Inclusive mediator and adhere to the new CIM CPD requirements.

The CIM Awareness and Understanding Day

This course must be attended by mediators who are not trained in Direct Child Consultation (DCC) or CIM prior to 1.9.18, **regardless of whether they wish to train in this field.**

The purpose of the CIM Awareness and Understanding Day is to ensure that all family mediators can explain the principles, purpose and the basic process of CIM to parents as they should routinely detail this in initial assessment meetings. They should be able to explain the possibility of CIM with their clients and answer any questions or concerns they might raise.

This training should be no less than one day and run by an approved FMC foundation or CIM course provider.

In all cases, the course can count towards a mediator's usual annual CPD requirements.

The CIM Update Day

Mediators who are already trained to carry out Direct Child Consultation (DCC) or CIM by 1.9.18 must attend a CIM update day by 1.1.20 or your first post 2018 re-accreditation date, whichever is the later.

This is to ensure that all mediators are aware of and understand the new CIM standards, and can meet the competencies for carrying out CIM.

The course must be run by an FMC approved CIM training course provider.

The course can count towards a mediator's usual annual CPD requirements.

The Standards Framework

The Standards Framework has been updated to include the duties, principles and requirements of CIM, the new competencies, the training requirements and ongoing CPD requirements.

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