



# FMC Newsletter

July 2018

## Recent FMC Developments

### Consultation: PPC Code of Practice and Guidance

Over the last year, an FMC working group led by Adrienne Cox, a mediator member of the FMSB, has drafted a Code of Practice for PPCs and accompanying guidance. The working group was made up of a total of 10 experienced PPCs each nominated by the FMC, the FMSB and the member organisations of the FMC. The FMSB is very grateful to the members of the working group for all their efforts in drafting the Code and Guidance, and is now keen to get the perspective of both PPCs and mediators who are not PPCs on the documents. You are therefore invited to read the draft PPC Code and Guidance, and to respond to the questions asked in the [consultation document](#), by 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

### Legal Aid Agency

The FMC has established a FMC Legal Aid Linked-In group, to provide a forum for FMC registered mediators interested in legal aid to discuss relevant issues with other mediators, as well as to highlight any issues that arise that mediators want the FMC to be aware of, so that it can provide feedback to the Legal Aid Agency about improvements that it would like to see made. To join the group, make a request through [Linked-In](#) or e-mail [executive@familymediationcouncil.org.uk](mailto:executive@familymediationcouncil.org.uk).

The FMC has raised the issue of harsh auditing practices with the Legal Aid Agency but we need more examples of what has happened on the ground to be able to continue to address this. If you have recent experience of harsh practices during Legal Aid Agency audits, please do let the FMC know via the Linked-In group or by e-mail to [executive@familymediationcouncil.org.uk](mailto:executive@familymediationcouncil.org.uk).

Mediators asked us to confirm with the LAA who they could ask if they had questions about matters such as eligibility. The LAA have confirmed that contract managers may be able to assist, or that mediators can e-mail their queries to [PA-CivilLegalHelpQueries@Justice.gov.uk](mailto:PA-CivilLegalHelpQueries@Justice.gov.uk).

## Refresher Courses

Mediators working towards accreditation, who completed their training before 1 January 2015, and who were granted a two year extension (until the end of 2019) to submit their portfolio are reminded that this extension was conditional on attending a 3 day refresher course during 2018. Suitable courses are running - please see the list below and ensure you attend a course in time in order to comply with the conditions of your extension.

## Portfolios

Mediators are reminded that the FMC has published new [portfolio guidance](#) and a new [template](#) to be used by mediators submitting their portfolios to the FMC when applying for accreditation. Mediators working towards accreditation who have not yet started to complete the existing template should use this version now; mediators who have started to complete their portfolio using the existing template may submit their portfolios using that template until 31 May 2019.

## GDPR

The FMC is continuing to receive questions about how to implement the General Data Protection Regulation, which came into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May. Unfortunately, the FMC cannot answer questions relating to this, but the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) has guidance on GDPR which mediators may find useful, as well as a helpline for small businesses - 0303 123 1113. Some of the FMC's Member Organisations have also issued guidance about this.

## Contact details

A reminder of the FMC's address and phone number:

Family Mediation Council  
International Dispute Resolution Centre  
70 Fleet Street  
London EC4Y 1EU

01707 594055

## Developments from elsewhere

### National Mediation Awards

Nominations for the [National Mediation Awards 2018](#) are now open. The awards celebrate excellence in mediation. There a number of categories open to all and some awards specific to family mediation (Mediator of the Year, and Mediation Programme/Initiative of the Year). Please do take a look at the website and [nominate now!](#)

## Mediation Awareness Week

[Mediation Awareness Week](#) takes place from Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The aim of the week is to promote awareness of mediation, particularly amongst those who might use it, and organisers are encouraging mediators across the country to arrange events which achieve this. More details can be found [here](#).

## Family Justice Council

The Family Justice Council-supported Pensions Advisory Group is conducting a survey of lawyers and financial experts who practice in the field of matrimonial finance. The aim of this is to provide some context for the main project of producing a good practice guide to pensions on divorce, to gather the views and experiences of those practising in these areas, and to reach as wide an audience as possible.

This survey is aimed at:

- (i) legal experts in England and Wales who deal with ANY matrimonial finance cases; and
- (ii) those financial experts who have been or are involved in valuing pensions or providing reports about pensions for divorcing couples and/or the court in matrimonial finance cases, in England and Wales as any part of their practice.

You are invited to [complete the survey](#) if this is relevant to you. The survey closes on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

## Notices for Mediators

### Mediator vacancy: Relate London North West & Herts

Relate London North West and Herts is seeking a sessional FMCA mediator to work across North West London and Northern Herts on a self-employed basis. Mediators will receive 35% of the total revenue for the case plus supervision and annual CPD. This mediation service has been established for over 25 years and also offers In-court mediation, homeless housing mediation and some civil work. For more information please email [nicola.cunniffe@relate.org.uk](mailto:nicola.cunniffe@relate.org.uk)

## Upcoming events & training

The FMC aims to bring you information about training, courses and workshops related to family mediation, to aid professional development. Courses are also listed on our [website](#), where you will find more details about submitting events to be included.

- 23 July, Anvers Mediation: Post Family Mediation Foundation Training - What Happens Next?, Leeds. For more information, please e-mail [jancoulton08@gmail.com](mailto:jancoulton08@gmail.com)
- 1 August (and later dates), [NFM: Foundation Training](#), London/distance learning
- 10 August, Bath Street Seminars: Drafting Mediation Documents, Cheltenham. For more information please email [nicholas@familymediator.org.uk](mailto:nicholas@familymediator.org.uk)
- 5 September, NFM: [Introduction to Mediation](#), Birmingham
- 5 - 7 September, FMA: [Foundation Training Course](#), Leeds
- 5 - 7 September, Resolution: Family Mediation Refresher Training, London. For more information, please e-mail [louisa.grisdale@resolution.org.uk](mailto:louisa.grisdale@resolution.org.uk)
- 6 September, College of Mediators: Professional Practice Consultant (PPC) Conference, London. For more information, e-mail [admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk](mailto:admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk)
- 12 September, College of Mediators: South East Mediation Network Meeting. For more information please contact [magrob521@msn.com](mailto:magrob521@msn.com)
- 13 September, NFM: [Child Inclusive Mediation Awareness and Understanding](#), London
- 14 September, Bath Street Seminars: Adapting the Model, Cheltenham. For more information please email [nicholas@familymediator.org.uk](mailto:nicholas@familymediator.org.uk)
- 19 September (and later dates), Resolution: [Mediation Foundation Training](#), London
- 20 – 22 September, [NFM: Refresher Training for Family Mediators](#), London
- 26 – 27 September, [FMA: Annual Conference](#), London
- 27 September, College of Mediators: Mediation Community Conference, Milton Keynes. For more information, e-mail [admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk](mailto:admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk)
- 28 September, FMA: [CIM Awareness and Understanding Day](#), London
- 1 – 3 October, FMA: [Child Inclusive Mediation](#), London  
(NB this is Subject to FMC Course Approval, a process happening in mid-2018)

- 4 October, FMA: [PPC Update of Theory and Practice](#), Leeds
- 4 October, NFM: [Child Inclusive Mediation Awareness and Understanding](#), London
- 4 October, FMA: Parental Alienation: [Recognition and Appropriate Responses in Mediation](#), London
- 6 October, NFM: [Introduction to Mediation](#), London
- 11 October, College of Mediators: North West Mediation Network Meeting. For more information please contact [info@solutiontalk.co.uk](mailto:info@solutiontalk.co.uk)
- 11 October, College of Mediators: South West Mediation Network Meeting. For more information please contact [admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk](mailto:admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk)
- 11 – 12 October, Resolution: [Dispute Resolution Conference 2018](#), Nottingham.
- 11 – 13 October, NFM: [Child Inclusive Mediation](#), London (NB this is Subject to FMC Course Approval, a process happening in mid-2018)
- 18 October, Anvers Mediation: PPC Annual Update Theory & Practice, London. For more information, please e-mail [jancoulton08@gmail.com](mailto:jancoulton08@gmail.com)
- 19 October, Bath Street Seminars: Working collaboratively in family mediation, Cheltenham. For more information please email [nicholas@familymediator.org.uk](mailto:nicholas@familymediator.org.uk)
- 19 October, Anvers Mediation: Post Family Mediation Foundation Training - What Happens Next?, London. For more information, please e-mail [jancoulton08@gmail.com](mailto:jancoulton08@gmail.com)
- 25 October, College of Mediators, Annual General Meeting Event, Milton Keynes. For more information, please e-mail [admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk](mailto:admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk)
- 1 November, NFM: [Diverse legal issues: 2018 Legal update training](#), London
- 2 November, Bath Street Seminars: Dealing with Impasse, Cheltenham. For more information please email [nicholas@familymediator.org.uk](mailto:nicholas@familymediator.org.uk)
- 8 November, NFM: [Introduction to Mediation](#), London
- 8 November, NFM: [Diverse legal issues: 2018 Legal update training](#), Bristol
- 7 – 9 November, FMA: [Refresher Training](#), London

- 14 November, College of Mediators: North East Mediation Network Meeting. For more information please contact [admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk](mailto:admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk)
- 15 November, FMA: [PPC Update of Theory and Practice](#), London
- 15 – 17 November, [NFM: Refresher Training for Family Mediators](#), London
- 16 November, Bath Street Seminars: Financial Disclosure in Mediation, Cheltenham. For more information please email [nicholas@familymediator.org.uk](mailto:nicholas@familymediator.org.uk)
- 19 – 20 November, FMA: [PPC Foundation Training](#), London
- 21 November, NFM: [Diverse legal issues: 2018 Legal update training](#), Newcastle
- 22 November, Relate: Legal Update Training, London. For more information please e-mail [nicola.cunniffe@relate.org.uk](mailto:nicola.cunniffe@relate.org.uk)
- 26 November, FMA: [Systemic Theory and Practice in Separation and Divorce Dilemmas](#), London
- 30 November, Bath Street Seminars: Facilitating Parental Communication, Cheltenham. For more information please email [nicholas@familymediator.org.uk](mailto:nicholas@familymediator.org.uk)
- 30 November, NFM: [Diverse legal issues: 2018 Legal update training](#), Birmingham
- 1 December (and later dates), NFM: [Foundation Training](#), London/distance learning
- 6 December, NFM: [Introduction to Mediation](#), Birmingham
- Ongoing, NFM Training: [Professional Practice Consultancy Training](#) (distance learning)

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*Family Mediation Council  
International Dispute Resolution Centre  
70 Fleet Street  
London EC4Y 1EU*

[www.familymediationcouncil.org.uk](http://www.familymediationcouncil.org.uk)  
01707 594055

Company reg no: 9560220