



FMC Newsletter

September 2018

Recent FMC Developments

Appointment of New FMC Chief Assessor

At the end of 2018, Dominic Raeside will be stepping down as the FMC's Chief Assessor after many years in the role. The FMC is extremely grateful to Dominic for all of his hard work and wishes him well in his future endeavours.

The FMC has started the appointment process for the new Chief Assessor. Details of the role and the person specification can be found [here](#). The closing date for applications is 22nd October.

Standards Review

Details of the Standards Review, which begins this autumn, are being finalised. Initially the Review will cover four areas: the process of becoming accredited; complaints; the format and status of all standards, codes and guidance notes; and standards issues which arise when drafting documents at the end of a mediation.

Work is under way on the first of these areas, with FMSB members starting to consult mediators to identify the pain points in the accreditation process. The first of these consultations will be at the FMA conference this week, and will be followed up at other events through the autumn. Full details of those will be circulated once available.

Safeguarding Policies and Procedures for Family Mediators

The FMC has [published guidance](#) about the requirement in the FMC's Code of Practice for mediators to have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place. The guidance sets out where mediators can find out information to help them develop these policies and procedures.

LASPO Review

The FMC has [submitted a response](#) to the [LASPO review](#) which outlines the need for the further development of family mediation as an essential economic and effective problem-solving process and makes a number of proposals for embedding family mediation further into the family justice system.

FMC Work with Legal Aid Agency

The FMC is meeting the LAA quarterly to raise and resolve any practice issues which arise in relation to family mediation work. At the meetings which have so far taken place, we have addressed issues including:

- Online MIAMs. There was a provision, unique to mediation, which required the meeting with a client to be conducted in person, which therefore prevented the use of online MIAMs. However, in its newly published [Mediation Guidance](#), the LAA clarifies that the use of video-conferencing for both assessment meetings and mediation is permissible under the legal aid contract (para 9.4).
- The position of UK nationals who are not resident in the UK. We have asked the LAA to clarify this and are awaiting a response.
- Whether Universal Credit will remain a passporting benefit. The LAA is waiting for a decision on this from ministers.

The FMC also raised a number of matters with regard to remuneration and was asked to put these in a paper (separate from its response to the LASPO review) for the MoJ's Legal Aid policy team. The FMC is therefore preparing a submission which includes arguments in favour of additional payments for Child-Inclusive Mediation and Open Financial Statements.

In addition, the FMC also now has a representative on the LAA's Civil Consultative Group. The FMC will review how useful this is at the end of the year - as the group deals with all civil contract issues, many of which are not relevant to family mediation.

Legal Aid Contracts and Updating the FMC Register

We are aware that many mediators either gave up or took on new contracts at the beginning of September. If this applies to you, please make sure you have let the FMC know by e-mailing register@familymediationcouncil.org.uk so that we can update the register, and people searching for mediators on the [Find A Mediator search](#) can therefore find accurate information about mediators in their local area who offer legal aid.

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 portfolios 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.

Mediators Taking A Break From Practice

If you are a practising family mediator and you take a career break (meaning that you are removed from the register, and wish to return), the FMSB has developed a simple procedure which will enable it to set out the requirements you will need to meet in order to return to practice. E-mail register@familymediationcouncil.org.uk for more details.

Consultation: PPC Code of Practice and Guidance

Thank you to everybody who responded to the consultation about the draft PPC Code of Practice and accompanying Guidance. The consultation has now closed, and the working group will consider your responses before making its recommendations to the FMSB and FMC, with a view to the documents being finalised before the end of the year.

FMC Annual Report for 2017

The FMC's [Annual Report for 2017](#), which incorporates the FMSB's report and the accounts, has been published on the FMC's website.

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

Mediation Awareness Week

[Mediation Awareness Week](#) takes place from Saturday 6th October to Friday 12th 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](#).

Notices for Mediators

Family Justice Council Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen on the Family Justice Council for a Family Mediator member. For more details about the role, the experience required and how to apply, see [here](#). The closing date for applications is noon on 1st October.

Parenting Co-ordination

Parenting Co-ordination is a child-focused dispute resolution process designed to help high-conflict families in implementing parenting agreements and child arrangements. As a service, it is growing rapidly across a range of jurisdictions, including in Canada, USA and South Africa. [Flip Faculty](#) offers training for FMCA mediators with over three years' experience to become parenting co-ordinators. Please contact help@flipfaculty.org for more information.

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.

- 26 – 27 September, [FMA: Annual Conference](#), London
- 27 September, College of Mediators: Mediation Community Conference, Milton Keynes. For more information, contact admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk
- 28 September, FMA: [CIM Awareness and Understanding Day](#), London
- 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 contact info@solutiontalk.co.uk

- 11 October, College of Mediators: South West Mediation Network Meeting. For more information contact admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk
- 11 – 12 October, Resolution: [Dispute Resolution Conference 2018](#), Nottingham.
- 16 – 17 October (and later dates), LBA Excellence: [Family Mediation Foundation Training](#), London
- 17 October, Resolution: [CIM Awareness and Understanding Day](#), London.
- 18 October, Anvers Mediation: PPC Annual Update Theory & Practice, London. For more information contact jancoulton08@gmail.com
- 18 October, Neil Robinson: World Conflict Resolution Day: Mediation, Abuse, Complexity and the World, Stafford. For more information contact neilmediator@hotmail.co.uk
- 19 October, Bath Street Seminars: Working collaboratively in family mediation, Cheltenham. For more information contact nicholas@familymediator.org.uk
- 19 October, Anvers Mediation: Post Family Mediation Foundation Training - What Happens Next?, London. For more information contact jancoulton08@gmail.com
- 23 – 25 October, Resolution: [Family Mediation – Using an Advanced Hybrid Practice Model](#), London
- 24 October LADR: CiM Update Day, Birmingham. For more information contact lesley.allport@ladr.net or lisaparkinson@btinternet.com
- 25 October, College of Mediators, Annual General Meeting Event, Milton Keynes. For more information contact admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk
- 30 October LADR: CiM Awareness & Understanding Day, Bristol. For more information contact lesley.allport@ladr.net or lisaparkinson@btinternet.com
- 31 October LADR: CiM Update Day, Bristol. For more information contact lesley.allport@ladr.net or lisaparkinson@btinternet.com
- 31 October – 2 November, Resolution: [Refresher Training](#), London
- 1 November, NFM: [Diverse legal issues: 2018 Legal update training](#), London
- 2 November, Bath Street Seminars: Dealing with Impasse, Cheltenham. For

more information contact nicholas@familymediator.org.uk

- 8 November, NFM: [Introduction to Mediation](#), London
- 8 November, NFM: [Diverse legal issues: 2018 Legal update training](#), Bristol
- 7 November, Neil Robinson: Annual Update of Mediation Practice, Stafford. For more information contact neilmediator@hotmail.co.uk
- 7 – 9 November, FMA: [Refresher Training](#), London
- 8 November, NFM: [Introduction to Mediation](#), London
- 8 November, NFM: [Diverse legal issues: 2018 Legal update training](#), Bristol
- 13 and 14 November: LADR: CiM Training Days 1 and 2, Birmingham. For more information contact lesley.allport@ladr.net or lisaparkinson@btinternet.com
- 14 November, College of Mediators: North East Mediation Network Meeting. For more information contact admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk
- 15 November, FMA: [PPC Update of Theory and Practice](#), London
- 15 November, Neil Robinson: Annual Update of Mediation Practice, London. For more information contact: neilmediator@hotmail.co.uk
- 15 – 17 November, [NFM: Refresher Training for Family Mediators](#), London
- 16 November, Bath Street Seminars: Financial Disclosure in Mediation, Cheltenham. For more information contact nicholas@familymediator.org.uk
- 19 – 20 November, FMA: [PPC Foundation Training](#), London
- 21 November, NFM: [Diverse legal issues: 2018 Legal update training](#), Newcastle
- 21 November, Resolution: [PPC Networking Day](#), London
- 22 November, Relate: Legal Update Training, London. For more information contact nicola.cunniffe@relate.org.uk
- 26 November, FMA: [Systemic Theory and Practice in Separation and Divorce Dilemmas](#), London
- 27 November, NFM: [Child-Inclusive Mediation Awareness and Understanding](#), London
- 29 November LADR: CiM Update Day, Wirral. For more information contact lesley.allport@ladr.net or lisaparkinson@btinternet.com

- 30 November LADR: CiM Awareness & Understanding Day, Manchester. For more information contact lesley.allport@ladr.net or lisaparkinson@btinternet.com
- 30 November, Bath Street Seminars: Facilitating Parental Communication, Cheltenham. For more information contact 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
- 6 December, FMA: [PPC Update of Theory and Practice](#), Manchester
- Ongoing, NFM Training: [Professional Practice Consultancy Training](#) (distance learning)

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