



# Ministry of Justice

## Guidance for Family Mediators involved in Child Inclusive Mediation (CIM) to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check with and without the children's Barred List check.

Child-Inclusive Mediation (CIM) is vital for incorporating children's voices in family dispute resolution, ensuring that children's perspectives and needs are at the forefront of families' efforts to reach agreements on private law arrangements. CIM provides a platform for children to express their thoughts, concerns, and preferences regarding family arrangements directly to mediators, allowing for more informed decision-making by parents or carers. This document explains which checks CIM mediators are eligible for, aims to guide CIM mediators or prospective CIM mediator on how to apply for Enhanced DBS checks after they have completed the required CIM training with an FMC approved provider and provides information about how to keep DBS checks up to date.

### **1. Eligibility for DBS Checks for Child-Inclusive Mediators:**

- a. If you conduct, or expect to conduct, CIM more than three times in a 30-day period you are considered "Individuals who provide advice or guidance wholly or mainly to children and this specifically relates to their emotional, educational or physical well-being on more than 3 days in a 30-day period" and are eligible to apply for an Enhanced DBS check with the children's Barred List check.<sup>1</sup>
- b. If you conduct, or expect to conduct, CIM no more than three times in a 30-day period, you are considered "individuals who carry out regulated activity with children where the work is done infrequently" and are eligible to apply for an Enhanced DBS check without the children's Barred List check.<sup>2</sup>

### **2. Applying for your DBS Check**

Individuals cannot apply for Enhanced DBS checks directly. Applications must be submitted via a Registered Body that will perform essential administrative tasks such as identity validation.

Mediators who are employed by or contracted to a service should ask their employer or service to submit the application for the relevant DBS check on their behalf.

Mediators who are self-employed and who cannot obtain a check through their employer or a service provider may apply through the FMC for an enhanced DBS check to be conducted. Please see <https://www.familymediationcouncil.org.uk/> for more details.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Child workforce guide v10\\_0\\_28052019.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) p.3

<sup>2</sup> [Child workforce guide v10\\_0\\_28052019.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) p.2



# Ministry of Justice

### **3. Updating your DBS Check**

DBS provides an 'Update Service' that allows applicants to keep their certificates up to date. More information on this service is available here: DBS Update Service - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)). Please review FMC requirements regularly to ensure you adhere to FMC professional standards for DBS checks and renewals.