



Seventh District Mediator Qualifications

1) Registration and Certification

- a. Must be registered with the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.
- b. Must be certified by the Seventh Judicial District's ADR program.

2) Training

- a. All general civil and domestic mediators shall complete a minimum of 28 hours of basic mediation training that has been approved by the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution. All mediators must also complete the observation or co-mediation with a veteran mediator in at least five mediations.
- b. Domestic mediators shall complete a minimum of 60 hours mediation training that has been approved by the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution, with 40 of those hours in domestic mediation training. In addition, each domestic mediator shall be required to observe one domestic mediation and co-mediate with a veteran mediator in at least two domestic mediations. Three other observations or co-mediations will be required. All domestic mediators should receive training in the subject of domestic violence and be current on the child support guidelines requirements.

3) Background Education Requirements

- a. General civil mediators shall:
 - i. Be a member in good standing with the State Bar of Georgia with a minimum of 2 years experience as an attorney; or
 - ii. Have a graduate degree in a financial or health related field with a minimum of 5 years experience in stated field; or
 - iii. Have a doctorate with a minimum of five (5) years dispute resolution experience.
- b. Domestic mediators shall:
 - i. Be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia with a minimum of 2 years experience as an attorney; or
 - ii. Have a graduate degree in psychology, counseling or accounting with a minimum of 5 years experience in stated field; or
 - iii. Have a medical degree in adult or child psychiatry with a minimum of 5 years experience in stated field.

4) All neutrals shall attend continuing education seminars as prescribed by the ADR Program or the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.

5) All neutrals must agree to provide pro bono hours and hours at reduced rates to defray ADR costs for parties with limited ability to pay.

6) All neutrals in the program will be evaluated and observed by the ADR Office on an on-going basis. Mediators may also be asked to provide copies of their mediated agreements to the program for cases in which the program assigns the mediator.