

**BAR OF NORTHERN IRELAND**  
**ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION AS A MEDIATOR AND**  
**ADMISSION TO BARRISTER MEDIATION SERVICES**

1. The criteria set out below are the minimum practice standards for registration by the Bar Council as a mediator admissible to Barrister Mediation Services [BMS].
2. Registration must be renewed annually by completion of the Mediation Profile Application
3. As BMS develops a register of Bar Council approved mediation courses will be established.

**TRAINING**

4. Members of the Bar applying for registration and admission to BMS must have completed, during the 5 years immediately preceding their application, a mediation course that meets the criteria specified below and their assessment exercise successfully attained. The mediation training must include training in:
  - Principles and practice of mediation
  - Stages in the mediation process
  - Ethics and values of mediation
  - The legal context of disputes (if any)
  - Communication skills useful in mediation
  - Negotiation skills and their application
  - The effects of conflict and ways of managing it
  - Diversity.

The mediation training will include not less than 40 hours of tuition and role-play, (with a minimum of 20 of these training hours spent in role play or practical exercise) including a formal assessment. The assessment should include direct observation of practice as a mediator in role play.

The training must be provided by a trainer who has had sufficient training and experience themselves.

Family Mediators must complete an additional 20 hours of training focused on that area of law (with a minimum of 20 of these training hours spent in role play or practical exercise) including a formal assessment as defined above.

A member applying for first registration and admission to BMS who has completed a mediation course which meets the standards above more than 5 years before the date of application his/her application will be considered provided he/she has acted as a mediator or participated in a mediation on 10 occasions during that period either as sole mediator or with another.

### **EXPERIENCE**

5. Admission to the BMS requires completion of training to the standards outlined above and in addition, as a condition precedent to renewal of registration, after the initial 12 months the applicant must have acted as mediator or participated in a mediation on 2 occasions either as sole mediator or with another.

### **CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT [CPD]**

6. BMS mediators are required to undertake a minimum of 4 hours of continuing professional development and support focused on mediation in each period of 12 months immediately following inclusion in the Directory. This CPD and support is in addition to the CPD practicing certificate requirements and may include training, supervision, monitoring, mentoring, shadowing and peer review. The purpose of this CPD and practice support is to offer a framework for BMS mediators to reflect on their practice in a structured way with a view to learning and developing their skills.

The Bar Council has the discretion to increase the number of CPD hours required.

### **MEDIATION PORTFOLIO**

7. All BMS mediators registered by the Bar Council are required to establish and maintain a portfolio which can be subject to random checks to ensure that Register requirements are being met.

The portfolio must contain the following:

- Initial Training Certification

- Log of Mediations/Mediation hours undertaken
- Log of CPD hours and CPD certificates
- Certificate of Insurance
- Annual Training and Development Plan

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

8. A BMS mediator will at all times abide by the Code of Conduct of the Bar of Northern Ireland and the European Code of Conduct for Mediators.

### **INSURANCE**

9. There must be appropriate insurance in place for the activities that the BMS mediator undertakes.