



NEWS AND UPDATES

NCDRC.GOV

DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMISSION

August 2023

DRCMediators@nccourts.org

919-890-1415

Mediator Renewal Reminder FY 2023-24

The Mediator Renewal FY 2023-24 period began on July 1 and runs through September 30, 2023. All certified mediators are required to complete two hours of approved Continuing Mediator Education (CME) before submitting their renewal application. (Inactive mediators are not required to complete CME, however they must complete a renewal application and pay the fee(s).) NCDRC staff emailed all mediators on July 1, 2023 to alert them that it's time to renew their certification(s). The fees have not changed, they remain at \$140.00 for a single certification; \$200.00 for dual certifications; \$70.00 for an inactive (status) certification; and \$100.00 for dually inactive (status) certifications. (The NCDRC does not charge for the Clerk certification.)

Mediator Profile

As a reminder, mediators are required to select the districts where they will accept court-appointments (MSC/FFS/ Clerk Rule 2).

Mediators may select in the Key Word section of their Profile, how they will only conduct mediations either by remote means; in-person; or both.

A.1 REMOTE—will only conduct REMOTE mediation

A.2 IN-PERSON—will only conduct IN-PERSON mediation

A.3 ANY—Mediator conducts REMOTE, IN-PERSON or Hybrid Mediation

The program Rules will continue to govern how the mediation is conducted. The key word search is simply a way for mediators to put the world on notice of their preferred method, remote vs. in-person, or both. Once you have updated your "Court-Appointment" list(s), scroll down to the bottom of the page to the "Key Word" section. The three new options are listed at the top of the list. Once you can completed your update, click the "Submit" button.

To complete your 2023-24 Renewal Application, please visit www.ncdrc.gov, scroll down to the "Renewal" Section and click on the logo.

To find a current list of approved CME trainings, please visit the [NCDRC CME page](#).

Please contact staff with any questions or concerns at DRCMediators@nccourts.org

In remembrance...Joseph "Jody" Minor

Jody Minor, former ex-officio member and executive director of the Mediation Network of N.C. passed away on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. Jody served on the Commission from 2005-2011 and assisted with establishing the District Criminal Court Program. As executive director of the Mediation Network of North Carolina, Jody spent many years providing the administrative support to the Network that allowed them to provide consistent mediation services to the residents of North Carolina. When the Office of Administrative Hearings was overwhelmed with medicate cases, Jody helped establish the statewide Medicate Mediation Program. Jody's leadership was vital to the success of the Network and mediation services in the state.



On June 27, 2023, the Dispute Resolution Section of the NCBA awarded Jody with the 2023 Peace Award for his lifetime of work, supporting and building the field of mediation and dispute resolution in North Carolina.

The Commission Unveils New Logo

On June 26, 2023 the [NCDRC announced](#) its new logo. The new logo features a gold laurel leaf that has a special place in Greek and Roman Cultures, as its symbolism survives to the day and remains a symbol of honor and victory. The logo also mark the year the Commission was established. The new logo will be featured in all Commission correspondence, the website, advisory opinions, policies, and guidelines.



Observations Forms Updated

On May 1, 2023, the observation requirements for MSC and FFS applicants were amended.

Attorney applicants must observe two mediations; one live in-person mediation, and one may either be conducted by remote means, or by viewing the Commission's online observation video.

Non-Attorney applicants must observe five mediations; a minimum of three live in-person mediations, the remaining two may be by remote means and/or the Commission's online observation video.

The [MSC](#) and [FFS](#) Observation Forms have been updated to include whether the mediation was conducted in-person. When you have an applicant observe you, please be sure to use the current form.

Commission Seeks Comment

At the August 18, 2023, meeting the Commission approved amendments to FFS Rule 8. To review the proposed amendments, please visit the [Commission Seeks Comment Page](#). The proposed amendments are open for comment until October 1, 2023.

FFS Rule 8(a)(1) clarifies that all applicants who attend FFS training, shall demonstrate that they have completed at least 12 hours of family law education.

FFS Rule 8(a)(5) the amendments clarifies that all applicants who are not licensed attorneys must observe three mediations that are conducted by a certified FFS mediator.

Good-bye Commissioners

The Commission paid tribute to three commissioners who are rotating off on September 30, 2023. Judge John M. Tyson, Ketan Soni and Charlot Wood (not pictured) were all presented a plaque in recognition of their service to the DRC. The Commission thanks them for their support and dedication in making the Commission's programs successful.



Judge Phyllis Gorham (chair) presents Judge John M. Tyson with his plaque.



Judge Phyllis Gorham (chair) presents Ketan Soni with his plaque.



Listen to the Commission's first Podcast "Beyond Neutrality" and receive one-hour of CME credit (no CLE credit is available).

[Episode One - The Beginning Beyond Neutrality! \(buzzsprout.com\)](https://buzzsprout.com)

Episode One - Tara Kozlowski and Maureen Robinson discuss ethical questions and concerns from certified mediators regarding Rules, Standards, Forms, and Advisory Opinions.

To report the podcast on your mediator profile, select "Beyond Neutrality—The Beginning PODCAST".
Be on the look-out for Episode Two, Coming Soon!

To find a full list of approved CME courses, visit the [DRC CME Page](#).

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