

# DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMISSION



NEWS AND UPDATES

WWW.NCDRC.GOV

March 2022

[DRCMediators@nccourts.org](mailto:DRCMediators@nccourts.org)

919-890-1415

## Items Open For Comment

At the February 25, 2022, meeting, the Commission approved changes to the following documents. All items are posted on the [Commission Seeks Comment webpage](#). Below is a brief explanation as to the proposed amendments the Commission has approved.

**FFS Rule 8:** As a prerequisite for attending the 40-hour training course, the proposed language would require applicants complete the Basics of Family Law Requirement; the term “family law attorney” would be amended to “North Carolina Bar board certified family law specialist”; delete the “grandfathering” section as the deadline has now passed; and requires non-attorney applicants to attend the six-hour court structure/terminology course as a prerequisite for the 40-hour training course.

**DRC Policy on Compliance to FFS Rule 8(a)(1):** The proposed language would require non-attorney FFS applicants to complete the 6-hour Court Structure/Terminology training before attending the 40-hour training course.

**MSC Rule 6(b)(4) Reporting Results in a Mediated Settlement Conference and MSC Rule 11(g)(3) Report of Neutral to Court:** The proposed language allows a mediator to report a partial agreement was reached at mediations, and how to report it on the Report of Mediator.

**MSC/FFS/Clerk Rule 6(b) Role of a Mediator:** Due to the increased use of remote technology for mediations, the proposed language would require the mediator to put all parties on verbal notice that recording the conference is prohibited.

All comments should be emailed to the Commission at [DRCMediators@nccourts.org](mailto:DRCMediators@nccourts.org) on or before April 1, 2022. All comments will be shared with the full Commission.



## MEDIATOR PROFILE AND KEY WORD SEARCH

Mediators may now select on their Mediator Profile, if they will only conduct mediations by remote means or in-person, by updating the Key Word Search section on their profile.

**A.1 REMOTE—will only conduct REMOTE mediations**

**A.2 IN-PERSON—will only conduct IN-PERSON mediations**

**A.3 BOTH—Mediator conducts REMOTE & IN-PERSON Mediations**

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.

To access your mediator profile, visit [www.ncdrc.gov](http://www.ncdrc.gov), scroll down to the “Renewal Section” and click on the logo, then enter your email address, then enter your security password (if you do not remember your password, click on the link provided and it will be directly emailed to you). Once on your Profile, 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. Staff will review and post it as quickly as possible.

Mediators may now record their FY 2022-23 Continuing Mediator Education on their profiles. To find the current list of CME Opportunities, visit the [Mediators CME Page](#).

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING THE CONFERENCE DATE?

Mediators are responsible for scheduling and holding the mediation conference within the court ordered deadline. The mediator shall make an effort to schedule the conference that is convenient to all participants. If in the absence of an agreement the mediator shall select a date and time for the conference.

[MSC/FFS Rule 6\(b\)\(5\)](#) [AO 08 \(2005\)](#) [AO 39\(2018\)](#)



### New Observation Video for Family Financial Applicants

At the November 19, 2021 meeting, the Commission approved an FFS Observation Video for all Family Financial Applicants. The video has been posted and is available for all to view. To request access, please send an email to [DRCMediators@nccourts.org](mailto:DRCMediators@nccourts.org).

A special thanks to all those that took the time to create the video, Ketan Soni, Heidi Risser, N. Todd Owens, Carolyn Krueger-Andes, and Deborah Dilman.

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