

CONNECTICUT COUNCIL FOR NON-ADVERSARIAL DIVORCE
MINIMUM PRACTICE STANDARDS
FOR COLLABORATIVE PRACTITIONERS AND MEDIATORS
and
MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

The Connecticut Council for Non-Adversarial Divorce (CCND) is the non-profit professional association of Connecticut family mediators and collaborative divorce professionals. CCND members comprise attorneys, mental health professionals, and financial specialists.

Our vision is to change the way people divorce or separate in Connecticut by reducing conflict and improving the lives of family members – especially children.

If interested in becoming a CCND member, please complete and submit a [CCND Application](#). Pending application review, notification regarding acceptance will be sent. Additionally, applicants must accept CCND's general requirements, adhere to practice standards, and meet membership criteria as specified below.

I. PRACTICE STANDARDS

- A. **The collaborative practitioner and mediator** agree to accept CCND's vision.

- B. **The collaborative practitioner and mediator** agree to practice in a manner consistent with:
 - [CCND Standards on Mediation and the Unauthorized Practice of Law.](#)
 - [CCND Best Practices for Review/Consulting in Mediation and for Drafting Counsel in Mediations.](#)
 - [APFM Standards of Practice for Professional Family Mediations](#)
 - [Model Standards of Practice for Family and Divorce adopted by AFM, AFCC, ABA](#)

- C. **The collaborative practitioner additionally** agrees to practice in a manner consistent with:
 - International Association of Collaborative Practitioner Standards and Ethics

II. MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

A. Attorneys

- 1. Are required to hold a law license and be in good standing with the administrative body regulating and governing the attorney within their jurisdiction.

2. **Family mediators:** To be accepted and recognized by CCND* as family mediators, attorneys must have completed:
 - **At least 40-hours of basic family mediation training in client-centered facilitative conflict resolution**
3. **Collaborative practitioners:** To be recognized by CCND as collaborative practitioners in addition to completing 40 hours of basic family mediation training, attorneys must *also* have completed or complete:
 - **At least 12 hours of basic collaborative law training**

OR

 - **At least 12 hours of introductory interdisciplinary collaborative training**

B. MENTAL HEALTH EXPERTS

1. Are required to hold at least one professional license in good standing as a:
 - Licensed Clinical Social Worker - LCSW
 - Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist - LMFT
 - Licensed Psychologist – PhD or PsyD
 - Licensed Psychiatrist - MD
 - Licensed Professional Counselor - LPC

OR such other equivalent license and advanced degree in a state’s, province’s, or country’s recognized clinical mental health field that is regulated by a governing body under a code of ethics.
2. **Family Mediators:** To be admitted to and recognized by CCND* as family mediators, mental health experts must have completed:
 - **At least 40 hours of basic family mediation training in client-centered facilitative conflict resolution.**
3. **Collaborative Practitioners:** To be recognized by CCND* as collaborative practitioners, in addition to completing 40 hours of basic family mediation training, mental health experts must *also* have completed or complete:
 - **At least 12 hours of introductory interdisciplinary collaborative training**

AND

- Have a background, education, and experience in:
 - Family systems
 - Individual development
 - Assessment and intervention in the family dynamics of separation and pre- and/or post-divorce
 - For child specialists: experience in child development, clinical experience with a specialty focus on children and an in-depth understanding of children’s issues in divorce

- Have accumulated or aggregated 15 hours of training in any or all of the following areas:
 - Professional coach-mental health neutral training
 - Communication skills training
 - Collaborative training beyond minimum 12 hours of initial -collaborative training
 - Advanced mediation training
 - Children/Families and Divorce

C. FINANCIAL SPECIALISTS

1. Are required to hold one of the following professional licenses or designations:

- CFP – Certified Financial planning
- CPA – Certified Public Accountant
- CMA – Certified Management Accountant
- ChFC – Chartered Financial Accountant
- CDFA™ - Certified Divorce Financial Analyst
- FDS – Financial Divorce Specialist
- CFDS™ - Certified Financial Divorce Specialist

OR other such equivalent license or designation in a state or country that is regulated by a governing body under a code of ethics and requires a broad-based financial background as well as continuing education.

2. **Family Mediators.** To be accepted by CCND and recognized as family mediators*, financial specialists must have completed:

- **At least 40 hours of basic family mediation training in client-centered facilitative conflict resolution.**

3. **Collaborative practitioners.** To be recognized by CCND as collaborative practitioners,* in addition to having completed 40 hours of basic family mediation, financial specialists must *also* complete:

- **At least 12 hours of introductory interdisciplinary collaborative practice training**

AND

- Have a background, education, and experience in:
 - Fundamentals and financial aspects of divorce
 - Cash management and spending plans
 - Income tax
 - Investments
 - Real Estate
 - Insurance
 - Property Division
 - Individual and family financial planning concepts

- Estate planning
- Have further education in the financial fundamentals of divorce giving the financial professional a basic understanding of family law in his/her own jurisdiction, including:
 - Divorce procedures
 - Property – valuation and division
 - Pensions and retirement plans
 - Budgeting – income and expenses
 - Child and spousal support
 - Future income projections
 - Financial implications of different scenarios for settlement

III. PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Any individual who meets all CCND general requirements and minimum standards for collaborative practitioners and mediators except for the completion of the specific training requirements outlined above may become a provisional member of CCND. Provisional membership will be available for a period of one year from the payment of dues to allow the provisional member to meet training requirements. Provisional members shall be eligible for all member benefits except for being listed on the website or other marketing platforms.

IV. WAIVER OF MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Under certain limited and appropriate circumstances, and at the discretion of the Board of Directors of CCND, an individual may request a waiver of membership requirements pursuant to policies and procedures established by CCND.

*Except for provisional members, accepted applicants are welcome and encouraged to post their backgrounds and pictures on the CCND website's professional directory per CCND posting instructions.