



Family Mediation Accreditation Scheme

Guidance for competence assessed family mediators wishing to passport to the Law Society's Accreditation Scheme

We are delighted that as an experienced family mediator you are thinking about becoming a member of the Law Society's family mediation accreditation scheme. We hope that all the information you need in making your application is included here.

A. An introduction to the accreditation scheme

The aim of the Law Society's family mediation accreditation scheme is to help the public to identify family mediators who have been assessed for competence, and to promote to the public those mediators who have been accredited by the Law Society. The scheme is subject to independent quality assurance.

Accreditation is for five years in the first instance. Arrangements for re-accreditation are under discussion.

B. Who is eligible to apply for passported membership?

Membership of the scheme is open to all suitably qualified family mediators¹.

The passporting route is available only to mediators who have already been competence assessed under

- the original Legal Services Commission (LSC) scheme;
- the LSC scheme as previously run by the Family Mediation Council;
- the LSC scheme as previously run by the former UK College of Family Mediators;
- or the Family Mediation Council's current Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) Scheme.

The Law Society's accreditation scheme is intended to cover all issues where mediation is appropriate arising from family relationship breakdown. Although family mediators may choose to specialise in children only mediation or in property and finance mediation, the Law Society Panel is available only to applicants who are able to demonstrate awareness and knowledge of all issues mediation.

¹ Mediators who have completed foundation training but not yet achieved any form of competence assessment may apply for membership of the scheme by submitting a portfolio [\[link\]](#).

C. Notes about making your application

You will need to complete Sections 1 which is generic to all Law Society accreditation schemes, and which ask for information about yourself and your practice. Some of the questions are relevant only to solicitor applicants.

In Section 2, the part of the application which is specific to the family mediation accreditation scheme, you are asked to confirm your competence-assessment by the LSC, the former UK College of Family Mediators or FMC, and your membership of another Family Mediation Council Member Organisation.

Your application should be counter-signed by your current Professional Practice Consultant.

The fee for passporting to the Law Society scheme is £95, inclusive of VAT. Cheques should be made payable to the Law Society and be included with your application.

D. Duration of accreditation

Accreditation is for five years in the first instance. Requirements for re-accreditation are under discussion and will be developed in tandem with Family Mediation Council requirements as they emerge.