

- ▶ To mediate at a Washington Dispute Resolution Center, one must have Resolution WA DRC mediator certification or equivalent experience. As a dual-state WA (and OR) center, Six Rivers follows the WA standards. See flowchart.
- ▶ As a smaller, more rural center, Six Rivers can only take a limited number of volunteer mediators-in-training (practicum students) and committed volunteer mediators at a time. There is currently a waitlist for this program.
- ▶ We do not charge for our practicum, but do request that those who complete it commit to volunteering with our center once they complete the practicum program and become certified DRC mediators.
- ▶ Many of Six Rivers' cases that go to mediation are family cases (e.g. divorce and parenting plans). To be a lead family mediator requires additional trainings (24 hour Washington family mediation training and/or 40 hour Oregon Domestic Relations/Parenting Time mediation training). Six Rivers does not offer these trainings- they are available through other centers.
- ▶ We appreciate our volunteer mediators very much and thank them for their time and service!



Six Rivers Volunteer Mediator Training Program

OREGON

- ▶ DRCs in Oregon fill the role of offering community mediation (e.g. neighbor/neighbor, landlord/tenant) services. Most (except for Six Rivers) do not offer family mediation. Oregon DRCs do not have a standardized mediator certification process.
- ▶ In Oregon, there are court-connected (civil and family) mediators who provide mediation services to clients through the courts. Parents are required to go to mediation for contested parenting plan cases. Becoming a court-connected family mediator in Oregon requires extensive training/experience (see slide #4).
- ▶ The Oregon Mediation Association does not offer mediator certification.

WASHINGTON

- ▶ In Washington, DRCs often provide family mediation services. WA courts may require mediation and may refer clients to DRCs and/or private practice mediators.
- ▶ This may be why Washington DRCs adhere to mediator certification standards. DRCS in WA offer both community and family mediation services.
- ▶ Resolution WA is now requiring that all member DRCs offer family mediation services and follow the ResWA mediator certification standards.
- ▶ The Washington Mediation Association DOES offers mediator certification.

Mediator certification and standards, OR vs WA

OREGON

- ▶ The Oregon Mediation Association does not offer mediator certification.
- ▶ Oregon DRCs do not offer mediator certification.

WASHINGTON

- ▶ To mediate at a WA DRC, you must have ResWA DRC certification or equivalent experience. As a dual-state WA (and OR) center, Six Rivers follows the WA standards. See flowchart.
- ▶ The Washington Mediation Association also offers mediator certification. For those who have gone through a DRC practicum the requirement is 60 mediation hours, rather than 100-200 hours for those who have not. <https://washingtonmediation.org/mediator-certification/how-to-certify/>

MEDIATE.COM

- ▶ Mediate.com also offers mediator certification. Requires 100 hours of training and 200 hours of documented mediation experience. 12 hours/year of continuing education. <https://mediate.com/mediator-certifications/>. Mediate.com is based in Oregon!

There is no state “licensing” of mediators. Certification is NOT required for private practice mediators in OR or WA. However, mediators may choose to become certified to add credibility to their practice.

Mediator certification options

- ▶ In Oregon, “Mediation is mandatory in all contested custody and parenting time cases unless waived by a judge.”
- ▶ Some counties offer mediation through a county program (Multnomah). Other counties offer mediation through contracts with private practice mediators (Hood River/Wasco).
- ▶ Requirements to become a court-connected family mediator in OR (may be changing):
 - ▶ Master’s or doctoral in behavioral health, subject related to children and family or law degree, or a bachelor’s in one of those fields with 7 years of full- time work.
 - ▶ Basic Mediation Training, Domestic Relations mediation training, Court-systems training
 - ▶ Experience: 100 hours of domestic relations mediation overseen by a qualified mediation supervisor, or at least two years full-time experience in mediation
 - ▶ 24 hours of continuing education every year

Note that court-connected mediator programs are usually separate from mediation programs at community dispute resolution centers.

Court connected mediator requirements- OR