



Scope of Practice of Mediators Working Towards Accreditation (WTA)

On successful completion of an approved Foundation Training course family mediators are required to register with the Family Mediation Council (FMC) and join one of the FMC's five Member Organisations. They are at this point recognised by the Family Mediation Standards Board (FMSB) as Working Towards Accreditation (WTA).

Accreditation, achieved through the successful submission of a portfolio, confers the status of a fully independent practitioner. While they develop their skills to the standards required, newly trained family mediators work with the support of experienced, accredited mediators and their practice is subject to certain conditions.

Before taking on cases themselves mediators working towards accreditation must:

- engage with a registered Professional Practice Consultant (PPC)
- observe a mediation session undertaken by their PPC or an accredited mediator, and write a commentary on that session for discussion with their PPC
- satisfy their PPC that it is appropriate for them to accept their own cases, with a suitable level of supervision including live observation – see below.

When undertaking their first solo case WTA family mediators must discuss with their PPC their preparation for it in advance and their management of the process afterwards.

WTA family mediators must continue to:

- maintain registration with the FMC and a Member Organisation
- build their portfolio for accreditation
- maintain active engagement with their Professional Practice Consultant (PPC)
- maintain CPD requirements, including awareness of child-inclusive mediation
- be observed by and/or co-mediate with accredited (FMCA) mediators as opportunities allow.

WTA family mediators may:

- co-mediate with any accredited mediator for both privately-funded and publicly-funded (legally-aided and voucher scheme) clients*
- conduct on a sole basis mediation information and assessment meetings NOT preparatory to a Court hearing or ordered by a Court under arrangements agreed with their PPCs (which may include working with other accredited mediators acting in support or mentoring roles)
- jointly conduct mediation information and assessment meetings (MIAMs) with any accredited mediator for both privately-funded and publicly-funded clients*
- conduct mediations for private clients under arrangements agreed with their PPCs (which may include other accredited mediators acting in support or mentoring roles).

WTA family mediators may not on a sole basis:

- conduct legally-aided MIAMs or mediations, nor mediation sessions funded by the voucher scheme
- sign Court Forms, and therefore
- conduct mediation information and assessment meetings (MIAMs) preparatory to a Court hearing or ordered by a Court without the oversight of their PPC or an accredited family mediator; when outcomes need to be ratified by a Court, WTA mediators must submit to their PPCs or other agreed accredited mediators Court Forms for review, endorsement and formal signature.

*See legal aid contract and voucher scheme rules for specific requirements