



M.C.D.R. CERTIFICATION PROCESS

APPLICANT'S SELF-STATEMENT

"A task of reflective practitioners is to know consciously the theories that guide and shape their behavior."

Michael Lang, THE MAKING OF A MEDIATOR

Integral to the certification process is your own reflection on the nature of your approach to mediation.

Please offer a brief description, up to one page, of your approach to mediation: your style, core beliefs, principles and/or theory/ies which comprise the lenses through which you view the mediation and which inform your approach.

There is a wide variation in practice among mediators. Some mediators practice using an interest-based approach, some view a mediation through a transformative lens, some employ an evaluative style.

The Self-Statement is not meant to discuss which is the "right" theory, but rather, to acknowledge your awareness of what you are doing as a mediator. To borrow an analogy from Michael Lang's *The Making of A Mediator*, all physicians practice medicine, yet in treating disease some of them employ aggressive approaches such as surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy; others rely on extensive testing before proposing an intervention, and still others rely less on drugs and prescribe life-style changes, natural remedies, emotional healing, or support groups. These professionals may all have similar training, but their practices differ widely.

The ability to articulate your general approach to mediation and employ it with consistency is one of the skills assessed in the certification process. Rather than rely upon a one-size-fits-all approach, your Self-Statement will enable the assessors to understand how you see yourself approaching a mediation session and to be able to view your work in terms of your own stated framework and goals.