

## 20-HOUR CHILD ACCESS MEDIATION TRAINING WORKSHOP

Mediation Matters [www.mediationmatters.com](http://www.mediationmatters.com)

September 24 - 26, 2021

September 24th, 9 - 6 p.m.

September 25th, 9 - 4 p.m.

September 26th, 9 - 4 p.m.

**This workshop will be held virtually.**

Mediation Matters will hold a 20-hour Child Access Mediation Training workshop for professionals February 19 - 21. This workshop is designed to provide both hands-on training and a clear framework to enable participants to work effectively with divorcing and unmarried parents who are struggling to parent their children at a difficult time in their relation. Past participants tell us that this is some of the best professional training they have ever received. We hope your experience will be the same.

### **Who should attend?**

The only prerequisite for this training is a completed a forty-hour divorce or basic mediation training. This workshop is for people who would like to develop the skills needed to work with parents who are separating.

*“Well organized. You two are a great inspiration. Thanks for sharing your expertise.”*

**Janet Schilling, attorney, Easton**

### **What does this workshop include?**

This interactive workshop uses a wide range of formats including video,

demonstrations, discussions, lecture, and simulations. The workshop, with a 350-page manual, covers the basic **content** areas of child access mediation. The training also focuses on the **skills** involved in becoming an effective mediator in parenting disputes. Some of the many components in this training include:

- how to talk about custody and visitation
  - distress vs. disorder: impact of divorce on children
  - screening for and addressing domestic violence
  - family systems: seeing the whole picture
  - the relation and bifurcation of custody and child support
  - Maryland domestic relations law
  - child development theory: its use and abuse in custody cases
  - parenting plans for toddlers
  - the “50/50” myth
  - enmeshed mothers, entitled fathers
  - relocation
  - model parenting schedules
  - writing good parenting plans
- and more.

**A distinctive feature of this training is the use of videotapes for instruction, including tapes of actual mediations.** The workshop will include coached role-plays so that each participant can practice and integrate new skills.

**For Maryland residents, this workshop will meet the 20-hour requirement for child access mediation training under Rule 17-106(b) of the Court of Appeals in Maryland** for those wishing to be approved as access mediators. A certificate of completion, suitable for framing, will be issued to you upon successful completion of and full attendance at the training course.

*“The strength of the program is the calm laid-back style of the mediators.*

*The videos are awesome because it forces you to think out of the box.”*

**Tiffany Alston, former state delegate, Bowie**

## **Who are the faculty for the course?**

The workshop will be led by:

**Louis L. Neal, Jr., J.D.** Louis is the Director of Mediation Matters and also General Counsel at the Office of Administrative Hearing in the District of Columbia and the senior attorney mediator at the agency. He has specialized in and mediated hundreds of government-litigant disputes dealing with health care finance, for-hire vehicles, wage-hour claims, child support enforcement, landlord-tenant disputes and more. Louis also mediates divorce and parenting cases, community/neighborhood disputes and other civil matters.

**Carl D. Schneider, Ph.D.** Over the past thirty-seven years Carl trained several thousand mediators. The founder of Mediation Matters, with a full-time practice in Rockville, Maryland, Carl is a licensed clinical Marriage and Family Therapist (Md.), former chair of the certification committee for the Maryland Council on Dispute Resolution, a Certified Mediator with the Supreme Court of Virginia, an Advanced Practitioner Member of the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR), an Advanced Mediator Member of the Academy of Professional Family Mediators (APFM), and one of only four Certified Mediators in Maryland with the International Mediation Institute (IMI). He holds his doctorate from Harvard.

**Audrey M. Yowell, Ph.D., M.S.S.S.** Audrey co-mediates and coaches for workshops with Mediation Matters. She brings to mediation her passion for working with children and families. She has worked in Head Start and in treatment settings for adolescents. Audrey has trained for government and private organizations, including as Vice-President of the Technical Assistance and Training Corporation. She has served as Field Instructor for graduate schools of social work. A member of the Maryland Council for Dispute Resolution (MCDR) and the Academy of Professional Family Mediators (APFM), Audrey received her M.S.S.S. from the Boston University School of Social Work, and her Ph.D. from the Heller School, Brandeis University.

### **Cost:**

Early registration is \$175 by August 24th. Total fee is \$795.

*“This workshop (child access) truly helped put video tapes and issues specific to child access and custody into perspective, differentiating it from the Basic/Divorce workshop. I especially appreciate gaining an enhanced understanding of my role as mediator, ie., conversation starter rather than problem solver.”*

**Dr. Guileine Kraft, social worker, Bowie**

**For further information, call 301/581-0330**

**or visit [www.mediationmatters.com](http://www.mediationmatters.com).**

Carl D. Schneider, Ph.D

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