Detailed Description

Learn from trained and experienced providers how the statutorily authorized Parenting Time Expediting process works. A parenting time expeditor is a neutral appointed by the court to assist parents with conflicts involving parenting time. The Parenting Time Expeditor process is a mediation-arbitration form of alternative dispute resolution. It allows parents to avoid the necessity of "going to court" when they have a dispute about parenting time. Rather than filing motions, the parties can ask the Parenting Time Expeditor to help when there is a dispute about the terms of the order, or when circumstances arise that were not contemplated by the order, or when the order is ambiguous or vague. Trainers will cover Rule 114 and its code of ethics as it relates to Parenting Time Expeditors, and will discuss typical complaints and how to avoid them. The Parenting Time Expediting Process can be a great resource for parents and is often utilized by the courts in high conflict cases.

The training will be a combination of lecture, discussion and hands on exercises. The training will cover the practical and legal aspects including the statutory definition of the role, when and how parties obtain a Parenting Time Expeditor, how they are paid, and how they are different from other court personnel. We will review with case examples how the process works including meeting with the parties, and drafting agreements and decisions. We will provide and discuss sample forms for all parts of the process. Additionally the training will deal with the psychological aspects of the Parenting Time Expeditor process including a discussion of research on high conflict parents, and typical psychological dynamics that play out in the Parenting Time Expediting process. The trainers will also discuss tips for avoiding getting caught in the parent's conflict.

Benefits/Outcomes:

- * Learn how to set up and manage the Parenting Time Expediting process
- * Gain an understanding of typical duties
- * Discover what to do and what not to do
- * Increase competencies in handling high conflict parents
- * Learn practical tips for helping parents reduce conflict

Pre-requisite: Successful completion of Rule 114 roster-qualifying 40-hour Family Mediation Skills course.

Who should attend: Persons serving as Parenting Time Expeditors and those interested in becoming a Parenting Time Expeditor.

Ellen Abbott, J.D., provides a variety of alternative dispute resolution services to meet parent's needs, including mediation, parenting time expediting, parenting consulting, arbitration, early neutral evaluation, parenting coaching and consensual special magistrate.

Beth Painter Harrington, Ph.D., L.P. is a Forensic and Clinical Psychologist in private practice in Eagan, Minnesota. She conducts custody and parenting time evaluations, and provides ADR services as Parenting Time Expeditor and Parenting Consultant. She specializes in high conflict parenting issues.

To register, contact the Mediation Center at 651-523-2279 or by email at mediationcenter@hamline.edu.

For information about other Mediation Center training offerings, please visit www.mediationcentermn.org.