

RETAINING ACCREDITED PANEL MEMBER STATUS - ONGOING PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

NZLS Panel of Mediator members need to meet **membership** and **ongoing practice** requirements to retain their accredited status. Panel members also need to retain their **professional association** with NZLS, as the membership organisation which administers the panel.

A combination of practical experience, combined with professional development through teaching and learning, will help panel members to retain and further develop their specialised mediation skills. A minimum threshold of family specialist panel members' combined ongoing mediation practice and professional development must be family-specific.

ANNUAL ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

1. *Ongoing practice*

During a membership year (from 1 July to 30 June) NZLS Panel of Mediators members need to:

- 1.1 Conduct at least **15 hours** of **mediation practice** (with a minimum of 10 hours being family specific);

Or

- 1.2 Complete at least **45 hours** of **mediation practice** (with a minimum of 30 hours being family specific) spread over **3 years**. **PLEASE NOTE:** this is only available for the three year period spanning **1 July 2014 – 30 June 2017** in recognition of the difficulties some practitioners have faced in gaining mediation appointments during the pre and post establishment of the Family Dispute Resolution service.

2. *Continuing Professional Development*

New CPD rules came into force on 1 October 2013. The rules stipulate that all lawyers providing regulated services must complete **10 hours** of CPD activities each year related to their identified learning needs, and to reflect on and evaluate what they have achieved through those activities.

Due to these changes there is no longer a specific professional development requirement for your ongoing accreditation to the panel of mediators however, as a mediation specialist it is expected that a proportion of your **10 hours** of CPD activities each year will be mediation specific.

3. *Membership*

- 3.1 All panel members must be full members of the New Zealand Law Society.
- 3.2 Family specialist panel members must be members of the NZLS Family Law Section.

4. *Professional Supervision*

All panel members must have arrangements in place for regular professional supervision. Formal professional supervision is distinct from collegial mentoring/supervision in that it involves a contractually agreed working relationship between a supervisor (professionally trained and

accredited) and a client supervisee (mediator). All panel members are required to have read and understood the Guidelines on Professional Supervision for Mediators and have suitable professional supervision arrangements in place. For more information on professional supervision or to read the guidelines go to <http://my.lawsociety.org.nz/forums/panel-of-mediators/supervision>.

5. *Payment of panel administration fee*

Panel members will be invoiced annually at the time of NZLS membership and practising certificate renewals.

6. *File an annual accreditation return form*

Panel members are required to submit an annual accreditation form. You can do this at any time during the membership year (1 July - 30 June) when you have completed the requisite number of hours. Some members find it convenient to submit their form when they renew their NZLS membership and practising certificates.

General

These categories may evolve over time – we will keep you informed of any changes. These accreditation standards are in line with the Australian National Mediator Standards for mediators seeking approval under the Australian National Mediator Accreditation Scheme.

Failure to renew your NZLS (and Family Law Section membership, if you are a family specialist), or to file an annual accreditation return in a membership year, will result in you losing your accredited panel member status and you will need to re-apply to join.