



Juvenile Dependency Mediation Counselor

Class Code:
4785

Bargaining Unit: Alameda County Management Employees
Association

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Established Date: Sep. 1, 2017
Revision Date: Sep. 12, 2017
Revision Date: Jan. 15, 2025

JOB DESCRIPTION:

JOB DEFINITION

Under direction, conducts confidential mediation to help resolve multi-issue, multi-party disputes arising in juvenile court dependency proceedings involving child abuse and neglect; to mediate post disposition, family issues upon request of the juvenile delinquency court; and performs other related duties as required.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

NOTE: The following are duties performed by employees in this classification. However, employees may perform other related duties at an equivalent level. Each individual in this classification does not necessarily perform all the duties listed.

1. Upon court referral, mediates legal and interpersonal disputes involving parent(s), relative and other caregivers, the child protective services, foster family agencies, and other interested persons, to help resolve matters in lieu of a contested hearing; manage the mediation process and maintain a neutral position; draft agreements and plans with the agreement of the participants; monitor mediation referrals for appropriateness of follow-up meetings; ensure mediation agreements and related documents are processed in accordance with relevant state statutes and local court rule and practice.
2. Conducts appropriate case development; provides parent, family, and caregiver orientation prior to mediation; as needed, conducts separate pre-meetings with parent(s) and other family members, including separate caucus with a minor and his/her attorney.
3. Presents mediation workshops/orientations to juvenile court bench officers, dependency attorneys, CASA, Social Services and other agencies regularly participating in mediation sessions; represents the mediation program at various state and national organizations and programs.

4. Serves as informational resource regarding relevant community resources regarding matters arising in course of mediation
5. As a courtesy to the juvenile delinquency court, may conduct occasional family mediation in post-disposition delinquency matters.
6. May supervise clerical and/or mediation staff on a rotating basis; may supervise interns

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Education

Graduation from an accredited college with a Master's degree in social work, psychology, marriage, family and child therapy; conflict resolution or other behavioral sciences substantially related to family interpersonal relationships; or a Juris Doctor degree with demonstrated experience in the field of juvenile or family law;

And

Experience

Three (3) years of experience in mediation, counseling, psychotherapy, or any combination thereof, preferably in a setting related to juvenile dependency court or domestic relations and with the ethnic population to be served; or at least two years of experience as an attorney, a referee, or judicial officer, practicing in juvenile dependency court or domestic relations with the ethnic population to be served; or any combination of training and experience that could likely provide the desired knowledge and abilities.

And, a minimum of 40 hours of mediation practice training and a demonstrated ability to mediation multiparty, multi-issue, high conflict cases.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:

Knowledge of:

California court system and procedures used in juvenile dependency law cases; demonstrated knowledge of the juvenile court dependency system, and the child welfare and protection systems, CASA, as well as the principles and techniques of mediation; basic theory of psychopathology and the psychology of families; issues relating to child development and abuse, including the dynamics of physical and sexual abuse, exploitation, emotional abuse, endangerment, and neglect of children; the effects of domestic violence on children; the effects of substance abuse on children; family systems theory; crisis intervention; cultural diversity issues; community resources for referral of clients.

Ability to:

To interpret and apply laws, rules, regulations, and procedures as they relate to the dependency mediation court system and the process in which the mediations are conducted; interpret information regarding family behavior from various sources; determine pertinent aspects of cases and useful interventions; communicate emphatically with clients under stressful situations; maintain neutrality and use communication and problem solving skills to assist parties in finding solutions; draft written agreements at the request of the parties; establish and maintain working relationships with staff, attorneys, judges, and other professionals;

Physical Demands

This is essentially a desk job. The job requires travel by car from mediation office to other mediation site and/or Bureau office. Physical demands include walking and sitting. Requires the ability to deal with interpersonal conflict on a continuous basis.

Special Requirements

A valid California Class "C" Driver's License or the ability to reliably utilize an alternative method of transportation when needed to carry out job-related essential functions.

Working Conditions

Environment is generally clean with limited exposure to conditions such as dust, fumes, odors, or noise. There is the potential of clients to act out anti-social or destructive behavior.

FLSA Status

Exempt