



Association for
Conflict Resolution
Family Section

Newsletter: July 2017

Who are the Family Section?

A number of years ago at the Family Section meeting during the ACR annual conference, there was a discussion of “Who is the Family Section for?” We asked whether or not our membership was primarily mediators (specifically divorce mediators) or whether we had a much broader representation of practice. Very quickly those present indicated that they felt that Family Section was a wide umbrella and that many types of practice were included and welcomed. At the retreat that same year, we brainstormed many of the types of practices that we thought were already represented in the Family Section. Here are some of the types of practices and family issues that were identified:

- Offender re-entry facilitation
- Guardian Ad Litem
- Family communication coaching
- Medical dispute facilitation / Special Education mediator
- CASAs
- Juvenile and family attorney and advocates
- Parent / Child mediators
- Family business mediators, coaches, consultants
- Mediation with multi-generational issues
 - Inheritance
 - Elder care

- End of life issues
- Mediation of termination of Parental Rights
- Divorce mediation
- Post-Divorce parenting issues
- Parent Coordination
- Family Circle dialogue
- Post adoption contact planning
- Child guardianship mediation
- Adult guardianship mediation
- Facilitation of family philanthropic matters
- Facilitation of family alcohol, drug planning, discussions

Since that discussion there have been many conversations about the need to be aware of the rich diversity of practice in our section. Our common focus is family. We serve families in many different ways and all of those ways involve skills that have to do with conflict engagement and resolution.

Because of the history of ACR, family has been front and center as one of the primary areas of interest of ACR. Historically, Family Section was the largest section in the organization and it was sometimes the most visible in the organization. We have been gifted with a history of strong leadership and of many talented and wise members.

One of the most exciting aspects of the Family Section is that it includes those who were members of the Academy of Family Mediators as well as those who are now just exploring work with families. We have researchers who have done remarkable work into looking into issues of family and we have new grads who are bringing a wealth of fresh insight and energy for new areas of

work. This is an exciting time for the Family Section and we encourage all of our members to reach out to others who are engaged in family work of any kind and encourage them to join us. We also encourage all of our members to explore ways in which they might serve the members of the Family Section.

Here are a few of the ways you might wish to become involved:

- Get to know other section members.
- Speak with the newsletter editors to explore possible articles you might write or to which you might contribute. Research, projects, and new types of practice are examples of possibilities.
- Mentor newer members in the field.
- Offer your services to host or coordinate a teleseminar or webinar.
- Consider preparing to take on section leadership in the future.
- Suggest resources (books, movies, etc.) that could be included in the newsletter.
- Offer technical services for managing the section web page.
- Respond to the ethical dilemma in the newsletter.
- Use the ACR and Family Section name where appropriate in writings, your bios, letters of the editor, etc.
- Ask how you can help. Every member brings unique skills and abilities. We want to use them all!