

The Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy (Committee) invites all interested persons to comment on proposed amendments to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure and the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure. The amendments provide that when the parties cannot agree upon a mediator, they may request, or the court on its own motion may appoint a Florida Supreme Court certified circuit or family mediator who has completed a Florida Supreme Court certified elder mediation training program. **[NOTE: Currently there are no certified elder mediation trainings. Training standards would be developed if this rules proposal advances to and is adopted by the Florida Supreme Court.]**

The amendments promote opportunities for Florida's elderly citizens and their families to request and the court to appoint Florida Supreme Court certified mediators with specific training in elder issues and shared decision-making. The amendments support three specific goals of the Long-Range Strategic Plan for the Florida Judicial Branch 2016-2021: increasing the use of constructive and non-adversarial resolutions in family cases; promoting the use of innovative and effective problem-solving courts and alternative dispute resolution processes; and expanding the education of judges and court employees to recognize and understand various perspectives of court users on relevant and emerging topics.

Please send comments for the Committee to the Florida Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) by July 31, 2019, to: DRCmail@flcourts.org; Florida Dispute Resolution Center, Supreme Court Building, 500 S. Duval Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399; or fax: (850) 922-9290.