

## **OLMSTED COUNTY Roster Qualifications**

The Olmsted County ENE minimum qualifications for early neutral evaluators are defined as follows:

- **All Evaluators**, including Financial Early Neutral Evaluators (FENE) and Social (Custody and Parenting Time) Early Neutral Evaluators (SENE) must meet the following criteria:
  - Complete Early Neutral Evaluation (“ENE”) specialized training;
  - Structure your practice to accommodate quick scheduling response to the Court’s request;
  - Accept the adopted ENE fee structure;
  - Meet the additional criteria as outlined below for attorney or non-attorney evaluators.
  
- Attorneys seeking to serve as a Financial Early Neutral Evaluator (“FENE”) or Social (Custody and Parenting Time) Early Neutral Evaluator (“SENE”) must also meet the additional criteria as follows:
  - Be a practicing attorney at law for at least eight (8) years with substantial emphasis on the area of family law in the last five (5) years, or have equivalent expertise and experience; and
  - Have family law trial experience or equivalent expertise and experience; and
  - Have an attorney license in good standing with the Minnesota Supreme Court, either in active or retired status; and
  - For attorneys seeking to serve as an SENE evaluator, observe two (2) SENE sessions through a “ride-along” in a participating ENE county. An attorney may petition for a waiver of this requirement if the attorney has participated as an attorney OR as a Provider in five (5) or more (two-provider) ENE sessions involving custody or parenting time; and
  - For attorneys seeking to serve as a FENE, observe one (1) Financial Early Neutral Evaluation session through a “ride-along” in a participating ENE county. An attorney may petition for a waiver of this requirement if the attorney has participated as an attorney OR as a provider in three (3) or more ENE sessions involving financial issues.
  
- Other Professionals (i.e. social worker, psychologist) seeking to be a Social (Custody or Parenting Time) Early Neutral Evaluator (“SENE”) must also meet the following criteria:

- Have a minimum five (5) years concentrated experience working with families and children on divorce-related matters, including custody, visitation, or related issues; and
  - Have a Master's level Social Work or Psychology degree, LCSW, LICSW, LP, or LMFT, or equivalent experience and expertise; and
  - Have a professional license in good standing, either in active or retired status or equivalent experience and expertise; and
  - Observe two (2) Custody or Parenting Time Early Neutral Evaluation sessions through a "ride-along" in a participating (two-provider) ENE county. A non-attorney that has served as an evaluator in a participating ENE county involving custody or parenting time may petition for a waiver of this requirement.
  - 40-hour family mediation training
  - Be on the Minnesota Supreme Court 114 Qualified Neutral Roster
- Other Professionals (i.e. accountant, financial advisor) seeking to be a Financial Early Neutral Evaluator ("FENE") must also meet the following criteria:
    - Have a minimum five (5) years concentrated experience working with families and children on divorce-related matters, including property valuation, spousal maintenance or child support, or other related fiscal issues; and
    - Have a Certified Public Accountant license in good standing, either in active or retired status or equivalent experience and expertise; and
    - Observe two (2) FENE sessions through a "ride-along" in a participating ENE county. A non-attorney that has served as an evaluator in a participating ENE county involving financial issues may petition for a waiver of this requirement.

In order to ensure that our SENE neutral evaluator teams are qualified to handle a range of custody and parenting time issues, non-attorney evaluators will typically paired with experienced attorney evaluators who know the law.