

# **DULUTH COURTHOUSE PILOT PROJECT**

## **Early Neutral Evaluator Minimum Qualifications**

1. An attorney or evaluator must have completed a 16 hour training program, which must include:
  - (a) Early Neutral Evaluator specialized training (preference given to applicants who have this);
  - (b) Family Mediation training; or
  - (c) Other Alternative Dispute Resolution training (e.g., arbitration, mediation, etc.).
  
2. An attorney seeking to be either a Financial or a Social Early Neutral Evaluator must meet the following criteria:
  - (a) Must have been practicing law for at least 10 years and devoted 50% or more of his or her practice to the area of family law in the last 5 years, or have equivalent expertise and experience;
  - (b) Must have family law trial experience;
  - (c) Must be in good standing, either in active or retired status;
  - (d) Must be able to structure his or her practice to provide for quick scheduling response to the Court's request; and
  - (e) Must be willing to accept the fee structure provided for in the program.
  
3. A non-attorney (i.e. Social Worker, Psychologist) seeking to be a Social Early Neutral Evaluator must meet the following criteria:
  - (a) Must have a Master's level Social Work or Psychology degree, LCSW, or LICSW or equivalent experience or expertise;
  - (b) Must have at least 5 years concentrated experience working with families and children or Guardian ad Litem/family court experience;
  - (c) Must be in good standing, either in active or retired status;
  - (d) Must be able to structure his or her practice to provide for quick scheduling response to the Court's request; and
  - (e) Must be willing to accept the fee structure provided for in the program.