



NEWSLETTER

FLORIDA DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER

"Exploring Alternatives"

ISSUE NO. 9

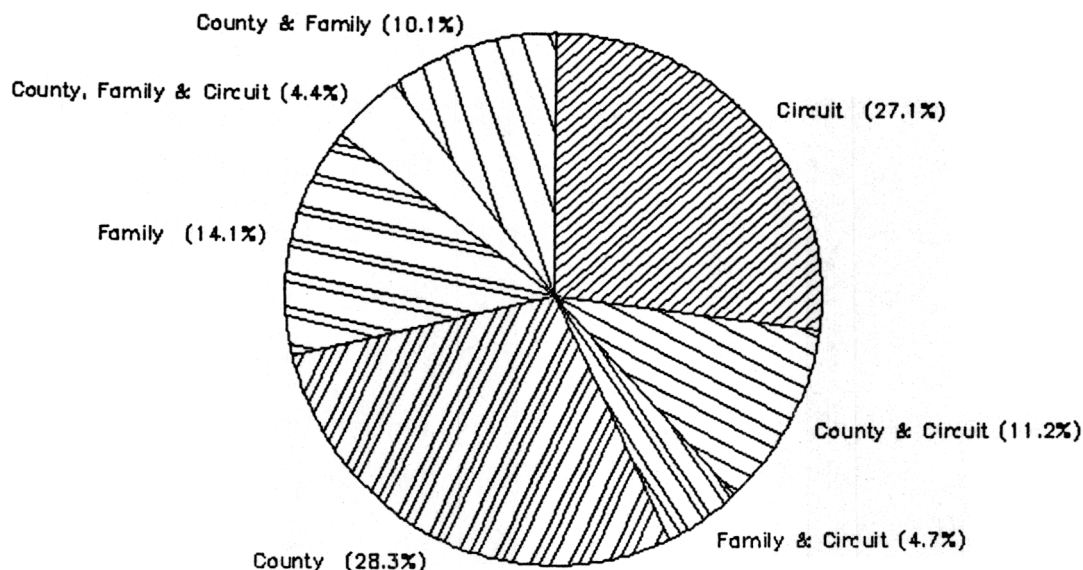
SUMMER 1991

AN UPDATE ON THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

by *Risette Posey*

Effective July 1, the temporary state-wide certification granted to all certified mediators has expired. From December 1990 to July 1991, 1309 applications were submitted to the Center. Of that number, 1260 persons have been certified. The 100-odd remaining persons who have submitted applications have been advised by letter or phone of the supplementary information necessary for the Center to move forward with processing. Only persons who have submitted applications and received certificates from the Supreme Court of Florida are certified mediators.

Supreme Court Certified Mediators



Only thirty percent of the state certified mediators are newly certified. The remaining seventy percent were locally certified prior to the implementation of a program for certification state-wide. These persons received uninterrupted continuing certification for a two-year period. After the end of this two-year period, mediators must reapply to the Supreme Court for continued certification. Applications and details of the recertification procedure will be forwarded to all mediators well in advance of their certification deadline.

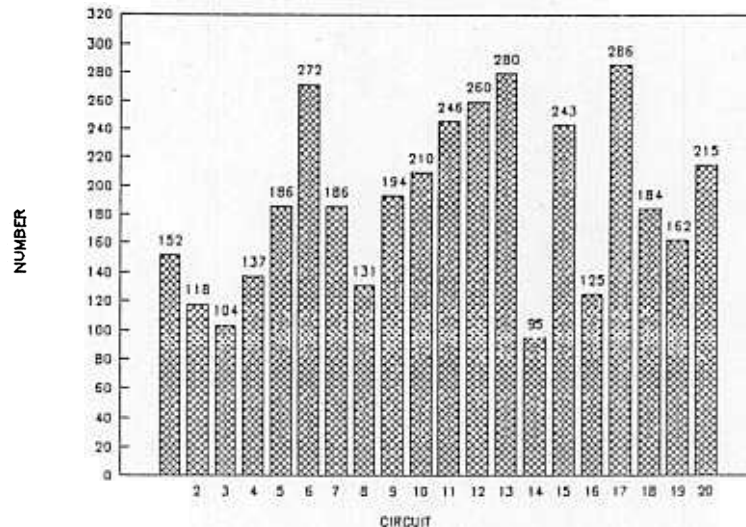
Court administrators and program directors in each circuit were sent four mediator certification lists. The first list is a comprehensive alphabetical listing of all persons who have been certified throughout the state. The other three lists contain the names of persons who wished to receive referrals from that particular circuit. These names are listed by mediator type (county, family or circuit) and date of certification. Within the certification dates, the listing is alphabetical. For example, a circuit mediator who lives in the 17th Circuit (Broward County) may wish to receive court referrals in Broward as well as Dade County (11th Circuit). That person's name would appear on the comprehensive list in all circuits for circuit mediation and on the individual circuit list in the 11th and 17th circuits for circuit mediation.

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A diverse blend of professionals comprise the pool of certified mediators. The statistics on family mediators, for example show an eclectic circle of backgrounds. Many are mental health professionals, but surprisingly, more than half are attorneys. One hundred ninety-nine of the 353 family mediators are lawyers; 23 are retired judges. A more detailed demographic analysis will be published in the next newsletter.

If you would like information concerning the qualifications to become a mediator or have questions concerning the rules governing mediator certification, inquiries may be addressed to Doris Peoples or Risetete Posey at the Dispute Resolution Center.

Persons on Rotation in Each Circuit



Florida Dispute Resolution Center NEWSLETTER

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