

RULE 8.185. COMMUNITY ARBITRATION

(a) Referral. A case may be referred to community arbitration as provided by law. The chief judge of each judicial circuit shall maintain a list of qualified persons who have agreed to serve as community arbitrators for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of chapter 985, Florida Statutes.

(b) Arbitrator Qualifications. Each community arbitrator or member of a community arbitration panel shall be selected pursuant to law and shall meet the following minimum qualification and training requirements:

- (1) Be at least 18 years of age.
- (2) Be a person of the temperament necessary to deal properly with cases involving children and with the family crises likely to be presented.
- (3) Pass a law enforcement records check and a Department of Children and Family Services abuse registry background check, as determined by the written guidelines developed by the chief judge of the circuit, the senior circuit court judge assigned to juvenile cases in the circuit, and the state attorney.
- (4) Observe a minimum of 3 community arbitration hearings conducted by an approved arbitrator in a juvenile case.
- (5) Conduct at least 1 juvenile community arbitration hearing under the personal observation of an approved community arbitrator.
- (6) Successfully complete a training program consisting of not less than 8 hours of instruction including, but not limited to, instruction in:
 - (A) conflict resolution;
 - (B) juvenile delinquency law;
 - (C) child psychology; and
 - (D) availability of community resources.

The chief judge of the circuit, the senior circuit judge assigned to juvenile cases in the circuit, and the state attorney shall develop specific written guidelines for the training program and may specify additional qualifications as necessary.

Committee Notes

1992 Adoption. This rule provides qualification and training requirements for arbitrators as required by section 985.304(3), Florida Statutes. It was the committee's intention to set minimal qualifications and to allow local programs to determine additional requirements.