

0/a 2-5-90

Florida Academy of Certified Mediators, Inc.

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January 19, 1990

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CLERK, SUPREME COURT

By _____
Deputy Clerk

The Honorable Raymond Ehrlich, Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Florida
Supreme Court Building
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1905

RE: Florida Supreme Court Standing Committee on Mediation and Arbitration Rules, Proposed Amendments to Rules 1.700 et seq.

Dear Mr. Chief Justice:

The Board of Directors of the Florida Academy of Certified Mediators, Inc. has reviewed the proposed Amendments to Rules 1.700 et seq., Florida Rules of Civil Procedure. We would like to commend the Standing Committee on Mediation and Arbitration Rules for their excellent work. We would, however, like to comment specifically on ~~one~~ change that we would recommend to proposed Rule 1.760, dealing with mediator qualifications. We are specifically concerned with the language contained in Subsection (d), entitled "Special Conditions." This Section deals with mediators who are presently certified. As proposed, the Rule provides that "[m]ediators who have been duly certified as Circuit Court mediators before January 1, 1990, shall be deemed qualified as Circuit Court mediators pursuant to these Rules." This proposed Rule provides a grandfather clause for present Circuit Court mediators. The Board of Directors of the Florida Academy of Certified Mediators, Inc., would recommend that the Rule be broadened to provide for grandfathering of County Court mediators and Family Court mediators in addition to Circuit Court mediators. We would also recommend that the Rule be clarified to provide that mediators certified in any Circuit in the State of Florida prior to January 1, 1990, are qualified to be certified in any other Circuit without meeting the new criteria for certification contained in the amended rules.

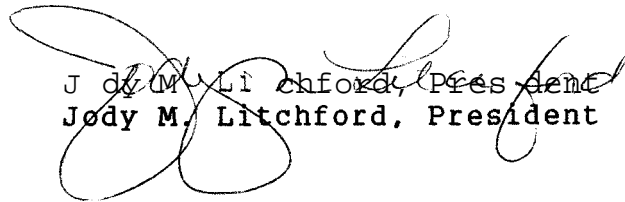
As a final comment, the Florida Academy of Certified Mediators, Inc. has endorsed the concept of statewide certification for mediators. We urge this Court to take

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whatever steps are necessary to implement such a change as soon as the appropriate procedure can be drafted and the necessary funding can be allocated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.

sincerely,


~~Jody M. Litchford, President~~
Jody M. Litchford, President

JML/tjs