

# IACP Minimum Standards for Collaborative Practitioners<sup>1</sup>

*The IACP Standards for Trainers, Trainings, and Practitioners are drafted with an awareness of the aggregate nature of learning. Knowledge comes from the interface between education and practical experience. Skill is acquired from the successive application of education to experience. With those principles in mind, these Standards should be understood as a point of departure in a continuing journey of education and practice for Collaborative practitioners and trainers.*

The IACP sets the following basic requirements for a professional to hold herself/ himself out as a practitioner who satisfies IACP Standards for Collaborative Practice in family related disputes.

## **1. General Requirements:**

- 1.1 The Collaborative practitioner is a member in good standing of:  
IACP; and a local Collaborative Practice group.
- 1.2 The Collaborative practitioner accepts the IACP Mission Statement.
- 1.3 The Collaborative practitioner diligently strives to practice in a manner consistent with the IACP Ethical Standards for Collaborative practitioners.
- 1.4 The trainings referred to in 2.2, 3.3 and 4.3 must be trainings that meet the IACP Minimum Standards for trainings delivered by trainers who meet the IACP Minimum Standards for Collaborative Trainers.

## **2. IACP Minimum Standards for Collaborative Lawyer Practitioners:**

- 2.1 Membership in good standing in the administrative body regulating and governing lawyers in the lawyer's own jurisdiction.
- 2.2 Completion of an Introductory Collaborative Practice Training or an Introductory Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice Training that meets the requirements of IACP Minimum Standards for Introductory Collaborative Practice Trainings and Introductory Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice Trainings. For practitioners who commenced Collaborative Practice prior to January 1, 2015, completion of training that met the requirements of the IACP Minimum Standards for a Collaborative Basic Training then in effect.
- 2.3 At least one thirty hour training in client centered, facilitative conflict resolution, of the kind typically taught in mediation training (interest-based, narrative or transformative mediation programs).
- 2.4 In addition to the above, an accumulation or aggregate of fifteen further hours of training in any of the following areas:
  - Interest-based negotiation training
  - Communication skills training
  - Collaborative training beyond minimum fourteen hours of Initial Collaborative training
  - Advanced mediation training
  - Basic professional coach training

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<sup>1</sup> Minimum Standards for Collaborative Practitioners were initially adopted July 2004 and revised in October 2014

### 3. IACP Minimum Standards for Collaborative Mental Health Practitioners:

3.1 Mental Health professional license in good standing in one of the following:

- LCSW [ Licensed Clinical Social Worker]
- RSW [ Registered Social Worker]
- LMFT [Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist]
- RCC [ Registered Clinical Counsellor]
- CCC [ Canadian Clinical Counsellor]
- R Psych [Registered Psychologist]
- C Psych [Chartered Psychologist]
- Licensed Psychologist
- LEP [ Licensed Educational Psychologist]
- LPC [Licensed Professional Counsellor]

or such other equivalent license in a state, province or country that requires an advanced degree in a recognized clinical mental health field, requires continuing education, and is regulated by a governing body under a code of ethics.

3.2 Background, education and experience in:

- Family systems theory
- Individual and family life cycle and development
- Assessment of individual and family strengths
- Assessment and challenges of family dynamics in separation and divorce
- Challenges of restructuring families after separation
- For child specialists: expertise in child development, clinical experience with a specialty focus on children and an in-depth understanding of children's unique issues in divorce

3.3 Completion of an Introductory Collaborative Practice Training or an Introductory Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice Training that meets the requirements of IACP Minimum Standards for Introductory Collaborative Practice Trainings and Introductory Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice Trainings. For practitioners who commenced Collaborative Practice prior to January 1, 2015, completion of training that met the requirements of the IACP Minimum Standards for a Collaborative Basic Training then in effect.

3.4 At least one thirty-hour training in client centered, facilitative conflict resolution, of the kind typically taught in mediation training (interest-based, narrative or transformative mediation programs).

3.5 In addition to the above, an accumulation or aggregate of fifteen hours of training in any or all of the following areas:

- Basic professional coach training
- Communication skills training
- Advanced mediation training
- Collaborative training beyond minimum fourteen hours of initial Collaborative training

3.6 A minimum of three hours aimed at giving the mental health professional a basic understanding of family law in his/her own jurisdiction.

#### **4. IACP Minimum Standards for Collaborative Financial Practitioners:**

4.1 Professional license or designation in good standing in one of the following:

- CFP [Certified Financial Planner]
- CPA [ Certified Public Accountant]
- CA [Chartered Accountant]
- CMA [ Certified Management Accountant]
- CGA [Certified General Accountant]
- ChFC [ Chartered Financial Consultant]

or such other equivalent license or designation in a state, province or country that requires a broad-based financial background and continuing education, and that is regulated by a governing body under a code of ethics.

4.2 Background, education and experience in:

- Financial aspects of divorce
- Cash management and spending plans
- Retirement and pension plans
- Income tax
- Investments
- Real estate
- Insurance
- Property division
- Individual and family financial planning concepts

4.3 Completion of an Introductory Collaborative Practice Training or an Introductory Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice Training that meets the requirements of IACP Minimum Standards for Introductory Collaborative Practice Trainings and Introductory Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice Trainings. For practitioners who commenced Collaborative Practice prior to January 1, 2015, completion of training that met the requirements of the IACP Minimum Standards for a Collaborative Basic Training then in effect.

4.4 In addition to the above, an accumulation or aggregate of twenty hours of education in the financial fundamentals of divorce giving the financial professional a basic understanding of family law in his/her own jurisdiction, including:

- Divorce procedures
- Property - valuation and division
- Pensions and retirement plans
- Budgeting - income and expenses
- Child and spousal support
- Future income projections
- Financial implications of different scenarios for settlement

4.5 At least one thirty-hour training in client centered, facilitative conflict resolution, of the kind typically taught in mediation training (interest-based, narrative or transformative mediation programs).

4.6 In addition to the above, an accumulation or aggregate of fifteen hours of training in any or all of the following areas:

- Communication skills training
- Collaborative training beyond minimum fourteen hours of initial Collaborative training
- Advanced mediation training
- Basic professional coach training