

**Survey Respondents**

The 65 survey respondents represent all five Massachusetts geographic areas and 67.3% of respondents are from Eastern MA. Over 82% of the respondents report having 5 or more years of experience and over 50% of respondents have 10 or more years of mediation experience.

**Four topic areas with more than 60% support**

**1. Clarification of the phrase “Dispute Resolution Organization”**

77.1% of respondents support a more precise definition of the phrase “dispute resolution organization”  
65% of respondents support the use of language taken from Rule 2 to further define the phrase “dispute resolution organization”

**2. Inclusion of the phrase “written agreement”**

85.3% of respondents support inclusion of language about written agreements and 63.9% support additional wording: “written agreement to participate with the parties”

**3. Government and/or judicial appointments**

68.9% of respondents do not agree that a government or judicial body should be able to appoint an individual to serve as a mediator to a dispute, regardless of training or experience.

**4. Implementation of Mediator requirements**

68.3% of respondents support having professional experience count only after completion of mediation training and 88.5% of respondents support phasing in changes post enactment. 53.4% of respondents prefer at least a two year phase in period post enactment.

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**Two topic areas requiring further discussion:**

**1. Mediator Training**

92.3% of respondents support inclusion of minimum training hours within a statutory definition for mediator... BUT there is the range of opinion on what the number of hours should be

- 41.5% of respondents support increasing the mediation training hours from 30 to 40 hours
- 35.4% of respondents prefer to maintain the current MGL requirement for 30 hour mediation training

**2. Mediation Experience**

76.2% of respondents support inclusion of language pertaining to minimum mediation experience BUT there is a range of opinion on what the minimum experience should be

- 31.7% of survey respondents support keeping the current four years of professional experience.
- 21.0% of survey respondents support two years of professional experience
- 16.7% of survey respondents support no minimum requirement

How to define professional experience? Years? Cases? Both?