**Agenda for Family and Divorce Mediation Training**

**Sue Bronson**

**Day One 8:30am – 5:30pm**

Understanding conflict and its resolution

**Exercise** – Experiencing conflict and its resolution.

*Break*

Mediation process and role of the mediator

**View DVD**

*Lunch noon-1:00*

Intake and screening for appropriateness for mediation

**Demonstration**

Practice session: Orientation and Screening

*Break*

Opening a mediation

**Practice Session: Opening mediation**

Wrap up and Reflection

**Day Two 8:30am – 5:30pm**

Communication skills

**Exercises: Listening for clarity and asking questions**

*Break*

Changing the quality of conflict interaction

**Exercise: Empowerment and recognition**

Impact of conflict and parental separation on children

*Lunch noon-1:00*

Parenting Issues – placement and decision making responsibilities

**Practice Session: Placement Schedule** – feedback and debriefing

Wrap up and Reflection

**Day Three 8:30am – 5:30pm**

Property Division

Role of outside experts

Gathering financial information, understanding and valuation

*Break*

**DVDs – 3 approaches to property division**

###### Lunch noon-1:00

Financial Responsibilities

Child support and spousal support

Budgets

Tax and Administrative Issues

###### Break

Practice Session: Property Division

Feedback and debriefing

Wrap up and Reflection

# Day Four 8:30am – 5:30pm

Impasse

Power and influence in Mediation

Diversity

*Break*

**Practice Session: Post judgment**

#### Debrief from role plays

*Lunch 12:00 –1:00*

Domestic Violence – Guest Speaker

Domestic Violence – the impact on women, children, families

Mediation in Domestic Violence situations

Wrap up and Reflection

**Day Five 8:30am – 5:30pm**

Working with other professionals

Writing a Mediation Summary

**Exercise:** Capturing decisions in writing

###### Break

The Unauthorized Practice of Law

Ethical Issues and Standards of Practice

*Lunch noon-1:00*

Ethical Issues and Standards of Practice

**Exercise:** Ethical dilemmas and decision-making in mediation

*Break*

Marketing a mediation practice / coordinating court services

Professional development

Wrap up: Putting it all together

Evaluations and Graduation

I would estimate that 8 six hours of the 40-hour training are focused solely on information exclusive to separation and divorce. Of course, all videos and role plays are mediations in the context of a separation/divorce dispute, however, the skills to watch and practice are the same as those in different contexts. I will often use examples from a variety of mediation contexts (work place, farmer v lender, special education school v parents, etc.) so people can see the basic mediation process and tweaks for the specific case content and people involved in the dispute. The attention to skill development means the course content can be used in a variety of conflict resolution settings and even one’s personal life.