

**Advisory Opinion****MEAC 2011-015**

Mediator Ethics Advisory Committee

c/o Florida DRC, Supreme Court Building, 500 S. Duval Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399

March 16, 2012

**Question:**

Is it appropriate for a certified mediator to use a mediation identification card reflecting the mediator's certification number to receive "the state rate" at a motel even though the mediator is not employed or on contract with the state?

The use of the identification card and mediator certification number is for the purpose of providing verification that the mediator is employed or working on behalf of the state which is required for the "state rate" motel discount.

Submitted by Certified County Mediator  
Central Division

**Authorities Referenced:**

Part One, Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators

Rules 10.110(b) and 10.620, Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators

**Summary:**

It is inappropriate and misleading for a certified mediator to use his / her mediator certification credentials to obtain a discount he / she is not otherwise entitled to receive.

**Opinion:**

It is inappropriate and misleading for a certified mediator to use his/her mediator certification credentials to obtain a discount he/she is not otherwise entitled to receive. The determination of whether an individual may be entitled to discounts for lodging or other services is one best made between the entity sponsoring the individual and the business providing the service.

A Supreme Court of Florida mediator certification number serves to identify an individual as having met the requirements for initial and/or continued mediator certification as contained in Part One, Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators. Being granted a mediator certification number does not convey the credential of state employee, contract provider and/or volunteer.

Mediators are reminded to adhere to their ethical commitment under Rule 10.620, Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators, which states “a mediator shall not accept any engagement, provide any service, or perform any act that would compromise the mediator’s integrity or impartiality.” [Also see Rule 10.110(b), Good Moral Character].

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Date

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Beth Greenfield-Mandler, Committee Chair