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Supreme Court of Florida
Dispute Resolution Center

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FLORIDA SUPREME COURT
Mediator Ethics Advisory Committee

Opinion Number: 2016-002
Date Issued: September 26, 2016

The Question

I am a volunteer county mediator in the [name removed] Judicial Circuit. My colleagues refer to themselves as “Officers of the Court” via their mediator certification. As a volunteer county mediator, am I an “Officer of the Court?”

Thank you for your guidance.

Florida Supreme Court Certified County Mediator
Northern Division

Authorities Referenced

Rules 10.210, Mediation Defined, and 10.220, Mediator’s Role, Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators

Summary

Florida Supreme Court mediator certification does not convey the title or role of “Officer of the Court.”

Opinion

Part I, Mediator Qualifications, Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators, does not confer the title or role of “Officer of the Court” to an individual meeting those requirements. In addition, the term “officer of the court” should not be used to define the role or obligations of the mediator. (See rules 10.210 and 10.220)



Sept 26, 2016

Signed and Dated by Susan Dubow, MEAC Committee Chair