

Screening for Domestic Abuse in Family Mediation



Date	Thursday 27th February 2025 and Thursday 6th March 2025
Time	1-5pm
Venue	Online via Zoom
For	Family Mediators and Mediation Intake Workers
Presenters	Michael Saini
Cost	RS Members £60/ Non-Members N/A
CPD Points	8 Category A Points
Booking	Secure your place HERE

This workshop takes place over two half day sessions, participants are expected to attend both sessions.

The sessions are designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge needed to address domestic abuse effectively in family mediation.

Participants will be introduced to a structured three-phase approach: screening, assessing, and planning for domestic abuse risks. By integrating theory with practical exercises, the workshop aims to ensure that mediators can confidently manage domestic abuse cases, prioritise safety, and understand when mediation may not be appropriate.

Through a blend of interactive discussions, case studies, and hands-on practice, participants will explore various screening and assessment tools (MASIC, DOORS, DOVE, SAFER, DASH, and the Duluth Power and Control Wheel) and develop strategies for managing power differences and implementing safety plans. The workshop will also provide participants with ethical guidelines and practical tools to ensure they are equipped to manage domestic abuse concerns with sensitivity and competence.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the day participants will be able to:

- Describe the various forms of domestic abuse, including coercive control, emotional abuse, financial abuse, and physical violence.
- Consider how to ethically and sensitively ask screening questions to identify hidden abuse and address confidentiality issues.
- Identify strategies for ongoing risk monitoring and safety planning, including understanding when mediation may not be appropriate.

Presenter: **Michael Saini, PhD, MSW, RSW**, is a professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and cross-appointed with the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto. Dr. Saini is an expert in the field of family law and social work, with a particular focus on domestic abuse in the context of family mediation and custody disputes. As an academic and practitioner, he has extensively studied the intersections of intimate partner violence (IPV), child custody, and family dispute resolution.

Dr. Saini has contributed to the development of risk assessment tools and frameworks, and his work often emphasises the importance of differentiating between various forms of abuse—such as coercive control, situational couple violence, and separation-instigated violence—to tailor interventions effectively in mediation and legal processes. He has published extensively on the challenges of handling domestic abuse within the family court system, advocating for evidence-based practices that ensure the safety of children and survivors while navigating complex family dynamics. Dr. Saini is also actively training mediators and legal professionals on how to ethically assess and manage domestic abuse cases, ensuring that power imbalances are recognised and addressed.

HOW TO BOOK

Relationships Scotland CPD events are for practitioners who are currently working for a Service that is a Member of Relationships Scotland. Booking early is encouraged as spaces may be limited. We use an online booking process, the link to the online booking form for this event can be found [HERE](#) . The online booking form can be used by:

- Member Services to book on behalf of practitioners.
- Practitioners from Member Services who wish to self-fund.

If you have any questions about the booking process please contact:

Jo Lockenwitz: jo.lockenwitz@relationships-scotland.org.uk

BOOKING TERMS

Booking for CPD events will be confirmed by email within 10 days of submission. Please check your inbox and/or junk mail, if you have any issues receiving this email please contact us immediately. Only participants that have received a booking confirmation email will be able to access the event. Member Services or Self-funded practitioners will be sent an invoice for the course fee before the event, please do not make a payment until you have received this invoice as it will have a unique invoice number for the payment reference.

Cancellations within 14 days of the event and non-attendance will be charged in full. Member Services/practitioners must notify us of any cancellations by email. Where appropriate, Member Services may transfer a place to another attendee if the original person cannot attend, we must be informed of this ahead of the event taking place. If a CPD event is cancelled by Relationships Scotland (because of insufficient numbers or unforeseen circumstances) then all fees will be fully refunded. We are unable to reimburse out-of-pocket expenses, such as travel and accommodation.

In exceptional circumstances, Member Services/practitioners may request a refund of the cost of the training event or a free place at a future event. Examples of exceptional circumstances include admission to hospital at short notice, or a family bereavement. We are unable to reimburse out of pocket expenses, such as travel and accommodation. Requests for refunds or credits for future events will be considered by the Office Bearers Group (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer of the National Office). All request for refunds/free places at future events should be made in writing or by email to the CPD Manager, sonia.bruce@relationships-scotland.org.uk

ACCESSING THE EVENT ONLINE

System Requirements: The CPD event will usually be delivered using the Zoom platform. Please attend the online session from a private space using a compatible computer or tablet connected to the internet. You will need to download Zoom to access the session: <https://zoom.us/> Please make sure you have the most recent version of Zoom. Please note, some organisations have additional security settings that may prevent you from accessing the CPD event on an organisational device. Please also ensure that you have the required bandwidth and internet speed. You can test whether you are able to join a Zoom meeting here: <https://zoom.us/test> Relationships Scotland are unable to provide refunds when there are issues with a participant's IT which prevents them from accessing the CPD event. Please contact the CPD Manager if you are unsure about how to use the technology sonia.bruce@relationships-scotland.org.uk

Accessing the Event: A link to the session will be sent out a few days before the event. Please ensure that the email address to which the link should be sent is clear in the Booking Form. It is also important that the Zoom account uses the same name that you used to register for the event. The Relationships Scotland CPD Host will use this information to admit participants into the event and to confirm attendance certificates. The username for your Zoom account can be amended by signing into Zoom and going to the profile section of your account.