

Membership Requirements

(The Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, shall admit applicants to Fellows membership.)

Because CLII stands for excellence in delivering Collaborative Process services, we require our members (called “Fellows”) to meet certain criteria that demonstrate a commitment to obtaining and maintaining the skills necessary to deliver results in Collaborative cases.

All Fellows:

1. All Fellows must be credentialed in their field, which means:
 - Attorney: JD, a current professional license, and member in good standing of your profession.
 - Financial Neutral: CDFA certification. In addition, the Financial Neutral should have one of the following: CFA, CFP, CPA, ChFC, CMA, MBA, EA, or ten (10) years of work experience in the financial industry (e.g. banking, brokerage, Insurance, etc.). This qualification to be determined on a case-by-case basis and the candidate must be a member in good standing of the profession.
 - Coach: active clinical mental health license in Illinois (LCSW, LCPC, LMFT, license as a psychologist or psychiatrist).
 - Child Specialist: meet all the requirements to be a Coach. In addition, the Child Specialist must have a supervised internship or year-long practice with some work with children, at least two (2) years of full-time experience with children and families or equivalent, three (3) years of professional practice post licensure and twenty (20) hours of specialized education in issues of divorce and children’s adjustment to divorce; and
2. Membership in the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP); and
3. Current professional liability/malpractice insurance; and
4. All Fellows complete an annual application and commit to abide by the CLII principles.

New Fellows:

In addition to the four criteria above, a new Fellow must provide written proof of:

- Completion of Two-day Basic Introductory Collaborative Practice Training, completed no more than five (5) years prior to submitting the CLII application. (NOTE: If Basic Training was completed more than five (5) years prior to the date of submission of the initial CLII application, Basic Training must be retaken.)
- If application for membership is not made within the first calendar year after taking Basic Training, six (6) hours of FCST (see below) for each subsequent calendar year since Basic Training, with a maximum of twelve (12) hours will be required.
- Completion of Conflict Resolution Skills training in the form of either:
 - a) a forty (40)-hour mediation training, OR
 - b) a thirty (30)-hour training in client-centered, facilitative conflict resolution, of the kind typically taught in mediation training (internet-based, narrative, or transformative mediation programs) AND an accumulation or aggregate of fifteen (15) further hours of training in any

of the following areas: interest-based negotiation training, communication skills training, collaborative training beyond the minimum twelve (12) hours of initial collaborative training, advanced mediation training, or basic professional coach training.

- c) If Conflict Resolution Skills training was completed more than three years prior to application, provide proof that the applicant has mediated at least three cases in the last three years or proof of completion of a conflict resolution skills refresher course, in the last three years, entailing at least fifteen (15) hours of training.

Renewing Fellows:

A current Fellow, in addition to the first four criteria, must provide written proof of Completion of six (6) hours of “Fellows Collaborative Skills Training,” or “FCST” per year of membership.

- An FCST is training that directly relates to the skills necessary to engage in interest-based negotiations and Collaborative Practice. It concentrates on process rather than substance and should be highly interactive. An FCST is designed to enhance a professionals’ ability to fulfill their role on a Collaborative Team.
- CLII offers several FCSTs each year.
- Training is also offered by other organizations, such as IACP, AFCC, etc.
- FCST if they meet the criteria above as determined by the CLII membership committee. (Such approval may be sought in advance.)
- In the first full calendar year of membership, a new Fellow must take six hours of FCST. Starting in the second full calendar year following the year in which a fellow joined, the fellow must report every other year his or her fulfillment of FCST requirement (minimum of six (6) hours for each year or a total of twelve (12) hours every two (2) years).

Rejoining Fellows:

In some instances, a Fellow who does not renew may seek to rejoin CLII at a later date. In those instances, a Rejoining Fellow would need to meet the requirements of a “New Fellow” with some modifications as described below. A Rejoining Fellow, in addition to the first four criteria, must provide:

- Written proof that Basic Training has been taken within the last five years OR that the applicant has taught Basic Training within the last five years. If not, the applicant can provide a description of the Collaborative cases that they have participated in during the last twenty-four (24) months. Membership committee may request additional information and make recommendation based on information received.
- Written proof of attendance at twelve (12) hours of FCST taken within the twenty-four (24) months prior to application. If attendance at an upcoming CLII-sponsored FCST within the six (6) months following application would allow the person to meet this requirement, a Rejoining Fellow may be provisionally approved subject to completing this FCST.
- Written proof that Conflict Resolution Skills training was taken within the last three years OR that they have attended at a fifteen (15)-hour refresher course in Conflict Resolution Skills training as described under New Fellows criteria, OR a statement of the number and types of mediation and/or Collaborative cases participated in during the last thirty-six (36) months.

These criteria have been developed so that when a member of the general public is choosing their divorce professional(s), they can rely on the representation of a Fellow that they meet these criteria. Attorneys, therapists, and financial professionals who are not Fellows may not have this same level of training to practice in the Collaborative Process model.

We remain open to modifying these criteria and welcome input from Fellows, past Fellows, past clients, and the general public.