



New Parenting Coordination Laws: A Roadmap to Compliance & Understanding

August 2022
Shana Duehring, Esq.



Shana Duehring, Esq.

Qualified Parenting Coordinator, 6th, 12th, 13th Circuits Florida

Parenting Coordinator Legal Consultant

Guardian ad Litem

Our Family Parenting Coordinator, LLC

PC Invoicing, LLC

St. Petersburg, Florida

web: Shana.FYI



Three learning objectives



- 1st Identify the laws, rules, and forms (“LRFs”) that govern parenting coordination in Florida
- 2nd Identify all changes adopted in the past year to the parenting coordination LRFs
- 3rd Understand how to comply with the changes to the parenting coordination LRFs

There are four main parenting coordination LRFs in Florida today



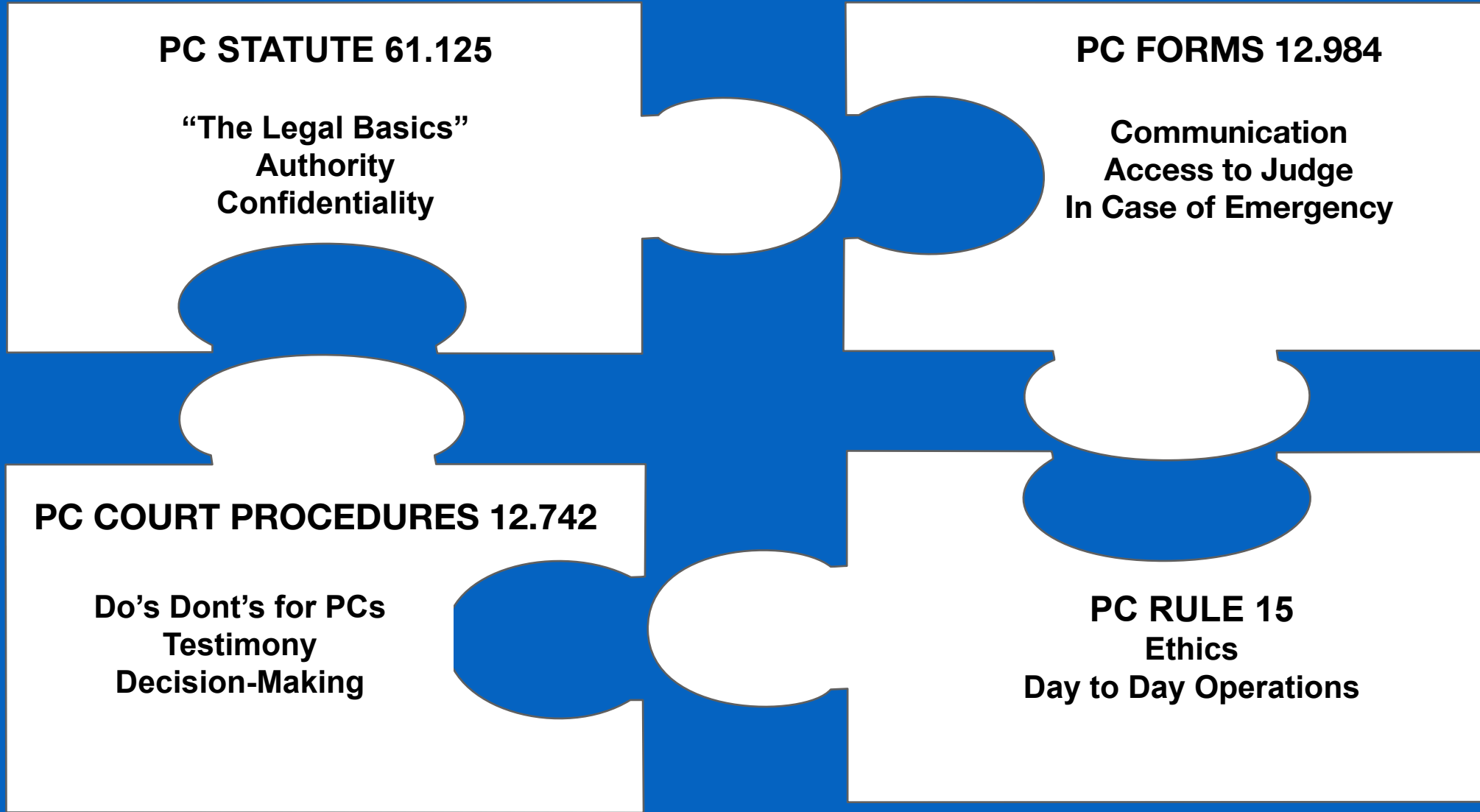
FLORIDA STATUTE 61.125

Family Law Rules of Procedure 12.742

Family Law Rules of Procedure Forms 12.984

**Rules for Qualified & Court-Appointed
Parenting Coordinators Rule 15**

These 4 legal pieces work together to govern the parenting coordination process in Florida



All LRFs are located in the *PC Almanac, which is published by the Florida DRC

Parenting Coordinator's Almanac 2021



Published by the Florida Dispute Resolution Center
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Tallahassee, Florida

LOCATED AT:

<https://www.flcourts.org/content/download/699705/file/parenting-coordinator-almanac.pdf>

**Still to be updated for 2022-2023*

In December 2021 the Florida Supreme Court quietly amended 1 of these LRFs and made it effective immediately

Supreme Court of Florida

No. SC20-942

IN RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE FLORIDA RULES FOR QUALIFIED AND COURT-APPOINTED PARENTING COORDINATORS.

December 2, 2021

PER CURIAM.

The Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy (Committee) proposes amendments to the Florida Rules for Qualified and Court-Appointed Parenting Coordinators.¹ We have jurisdiction² and adopt the proposed amendments with minor, technical changes.³

1. The Committee proposes the amendments pursuant to *In re Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy*, Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC18-29 (July 2, 2018), which charges the Committee with monitoring court rules governing alternative dispute resolution procedures and recommending necessary changes to the Court.

2. See art. V, § 2(a), Fla. Const.

3. References to the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration are amended to reflect the new title of the body of rules, the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration. See *In re*

The Committee proposes several new rules, as well as amendments that would reorganize the current rules. First, the Committee proposes renumbering and renaming existing Part I (Standards) to Part II (Standards of Professional Conduct) and creating a new Part I (Rostering of Parenting Coordinators), which includes new rules 15.010 (Circuit Disqualification) and 15.020 (Renewal). While the existing language of rule 15.000 (Applicability of Standards) is renumbered as rule 15.200 and moved to newly renumbered Part II, rule 15.000 is retained in new Part I, retitled “Qualification,” and rewritten to outline the qualification process for parenting coordinators. Next, existing Part II (Discipline) is renumbered to Part III (Discipline). The rules in both newly renumbered parts are renumbered accordingly. Last, the Committee proposes a new Part IV (Operating Procedures) and organizing new rule 15.400 (Authority) in this part. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the proposed amendments.

Amends. to Fla. Rules of Jud. Admin.—2020 Regular-Cycle Report, 310 So. 3d 374 (Fla. 2021).

Before filing its rule proposals with the Court, the Committee published the proposals for comment, and Committee staff responded to each e-mailed comment individually. After the Committee’s proposals were filed, the Court published the proposals for comment. The Court received two comments. The Committee received a response urging the Court to adopt the amendments as proposed.

After considering the Committee’s proposed amendments, the Committee’s response, and the Florida Rules for Qualified and Court-Appointed Parenting Coordinators are amended as reflected in the appendix to this opinion. New language is indicated by underscoring; deletions are indicated by struck-through type. The amendments shall take effect immediately upon the release of this opinion.

It is so ordered.

NADY, C.J., and POLSTON, LABARGA, LAWSON, MUÑIZ, URIEL, and GROSSHANS, JJ., concur.

THE FILING OF A MOTION FOR REHEARING SHALL NOT ALTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THESE AMENDMENTS.

Rule 15 was expanded to require continuing education and reporting for qualified parenting coordinators

PC STATUTE 61.125

“The Basics”
Authority
Confidentiality

PC FORMS 12.984

Communication
Access to Judge
Compliance
In Case of Emergency

PC COURT PROCEDURE RULE

Do’s Dont’s for PCs
Testimony
Decision-Making

PC RULE 15
CONTINUING
EDUCATION &
REPORTING
Ethics
Day to Day Operations

The Supreme Court tasked the DRC with creating and disseminating operating procedures for PC continuing education requirements ASAP

In Opinion SC20-942, In Re: Amendments to the Florida Rules for Qualified and Court-Appointed Parenting Coordinators.... the court adopted new rules relating to qualifications, renewal, and continuing education for qualified parenting coordinators. Rules 15.000(c) and 15.020(c) charge the Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy (Committee) with developing the initial application for parenting coordination qualification and the renewal application required every two-years. The rules also charge the Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) with disseminating these forms to the trial courts for standardized use statewide. In addition, Rule 15.400 permits the Committee to promulgate, adopt, and amend operating procedures containing the initial parenting coordination training standards, continuing parenting education provisions, and procedures for approving and reporting compliance with the same and any other procedures necessary to implement these rules.

<https://www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Alternative-Dispute-Resolution/Parenting-Coordination>

The DRC rose to the challenge and released new PC training procedures in March 2022

Florida Rules for Qualified & Court-Appointed Parenting Coordinators

Effective December 2021



Florida Dispute Resolution Center
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Supreme Court Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
drcmail@flcourts.org www.flcourts.org

LOCATED AT:

<https://www.flcourts.org/content/download/216760/file/rules-qualified-court-appointed-parenting-coordinators.pdf>

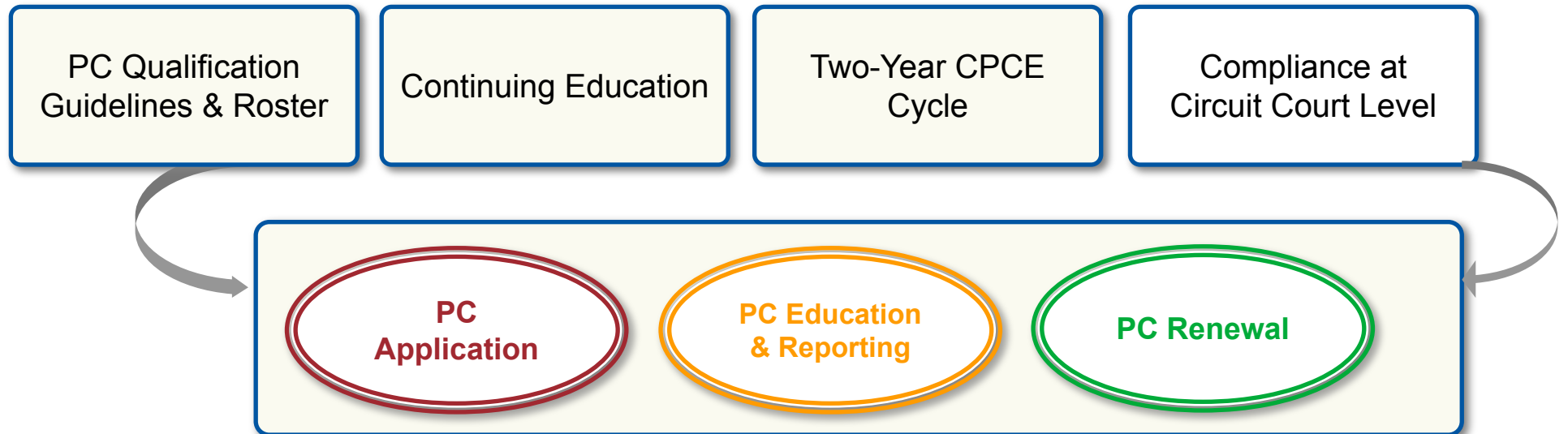
[Operating Procedures Governing Continuing Parenting Coordination Education \(CPCE\)](#)

An overview of the new PC training procedures under Rule 15...

PAST STATE

- Parenting Coordinators qualified based only on initial training, licensure
- Lifetime qualification presumed
- Continuing education recommended not required
- Reporting not required

CURRENT STATE

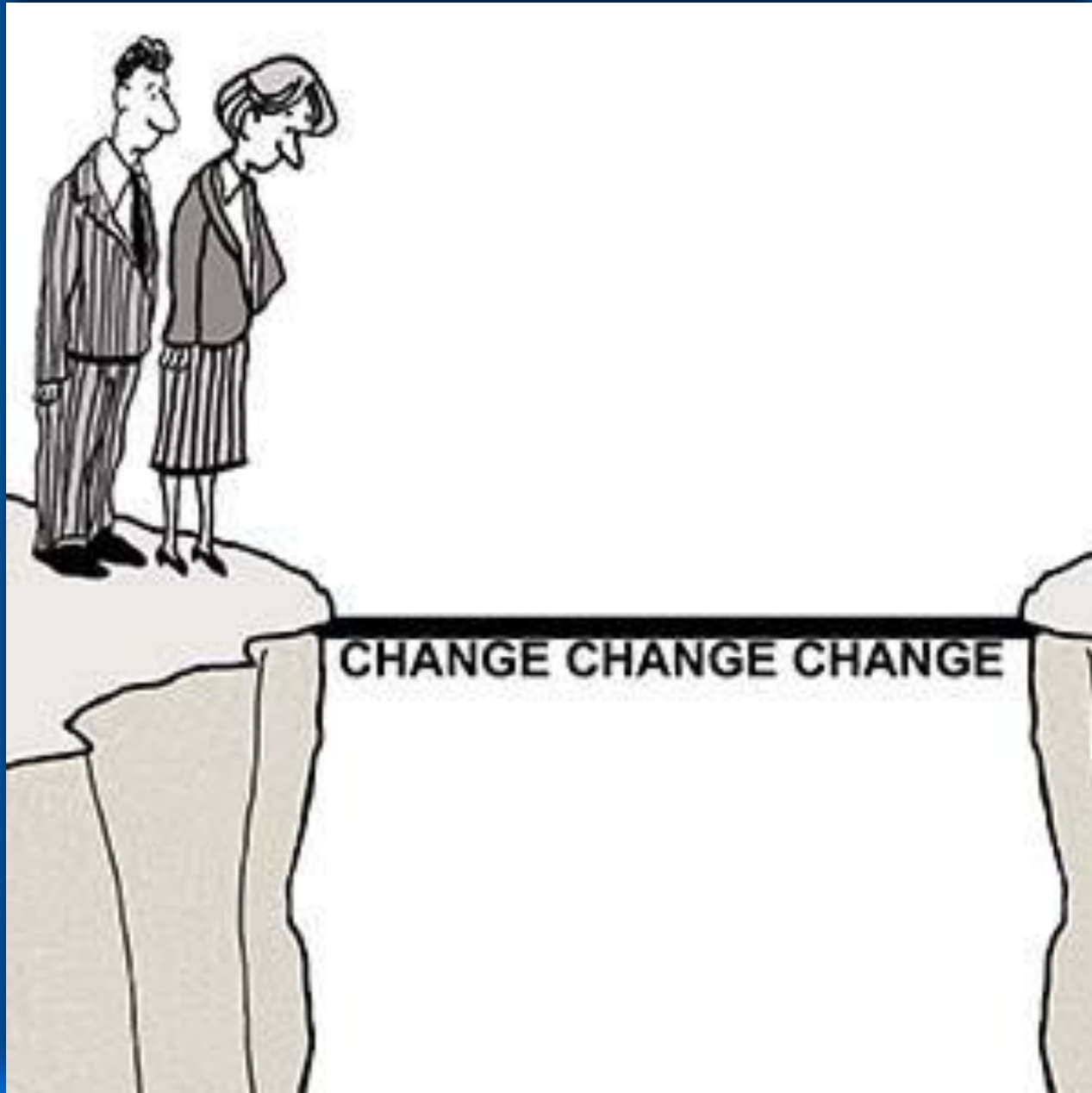


COMPLIANCE TRAINING



YAY

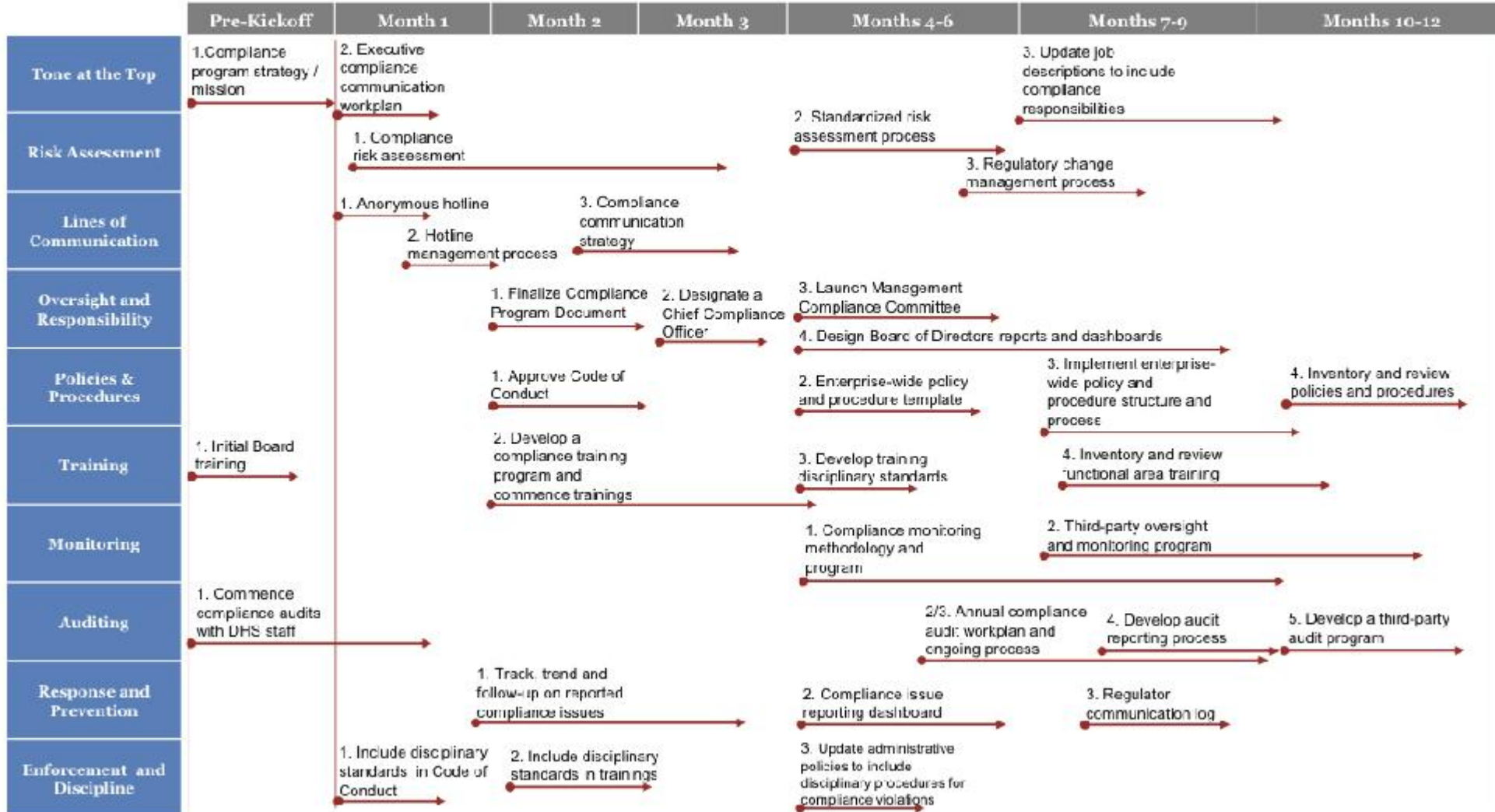
*for Parenting
Coordinators*



CHANGE CHANGE CHANGE

COMPLIANCE PROGRAM ROADMAP

This roadmap is intended to provide an estimate for the sequence and timing of Compliance Program implementation activities over a 12 month + period.



Luckily, complying with the new rule is easy

1. One-time Only: Send Standard Application to each circuit court
2. 16 Hours Continuing Parenting Coordination Education "CPCEs"
3. Report CPCEs to each circuit court by 12/31 in odd years



The new Rule 15 has standardized and expanded the initial parenting coordination application

1. PC Standard Application created by ADR Committee must be used by all judicial circuits
2. Each judicial circuit:
 - a. Must review the applications and determine which individuals meet the qualifications under section FL Statute 61.125 to be included on the roster of qualified PCs for that circuit
 - b. Must establish and maintain a roster of parenting coordinators from which the trial court may appoint a qualified parenting coordinator
 - c. May conduct a criminal background investigation and make inquiries necessary to verify an applicant's eligibility to be included on the roster of qualified PCs for that circuit

*No other additional requirements shall be imposed on parenting coordinators to be included on a circuit's roster other than those listed in section 61.125, Florida Statutes, and these rules.

[Link to NEW Parenting Coordination Initial Application](#)

The new Rule 15 tightened up the PC Disqualification procedures

- ❖ Each judicial circuit shall establish a process to periodically review whether a parenting coordinator continues to be qualified
- ❖ PCs who are disqualified shall immediately be removed from the circuit's list of qualified parenting coordinators
- ❖ Any appeal pertaining to a parenting coordinator's inclusion on or removal from the roster shall be heard and decided by the chief judge or designee(s) in that judicial circuit, whose decision shall be final

Continuing PC Education “CPCE” must be reported every 2 years

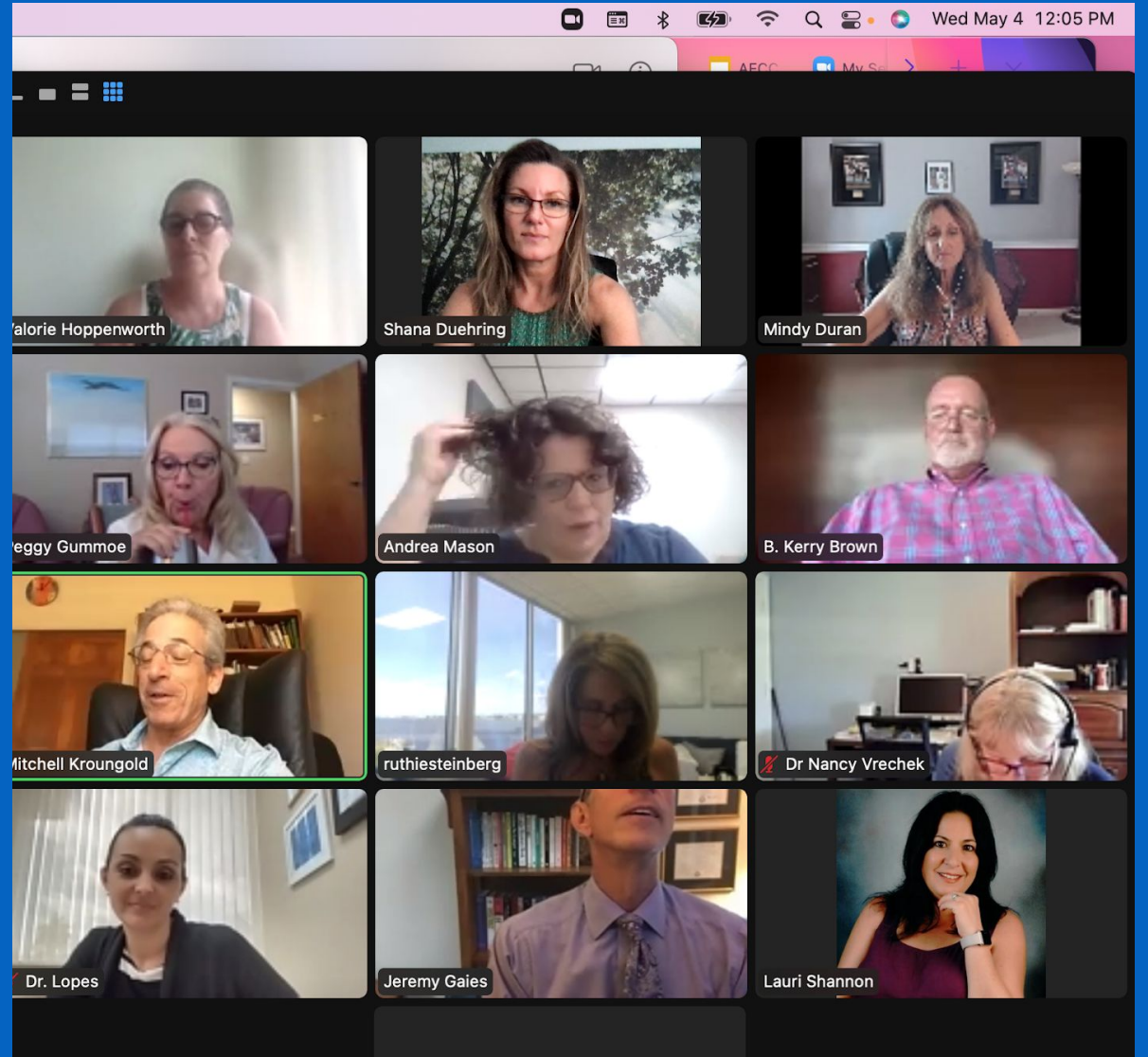
- ❖ PC Standard Renewal Application created by ADR Committee must be used by all judicial circuits
- ❖ Each judicial circuit shall require qualified PCs to renew their qualifications for inclusion on the roster by submitting the statewide approved renewal form and verification of **16 hours of continuing parenting coordination education “CPCE”** every two years
- ❖ All qualified PCs shall renew their qualifications and provide verification of continuing parenting coordination education **on or before December 31 of every odd-numbered year** regardless of the length of initial or renewal qualification
- ❖ If all other qualifications are satisfied but a qualified PC is deficient in CPCE hours, they will be notified in writing and qualification shall be continued for 90 days from the notice of noncompliance. They shall complete all remaining CPCE within those 90 days

[LINK to Parenting Coordination Education \(CPCE\) Reporting Form](#)

CPCE hours can be earned in numerous ways

- ❖ There is no accreditation or qualification process for CPCE providers, however generally: Qualifying CPCE:
 - Must have significant, current intellectual or practical content and must constitute an organized program of learning directly related to the practice of parenting coordination.
 - Must be conducted by an individual or group qualified by practical or academic experience.
 - Free or fee-based trainings
- ❖ Acceptable formats:
 - Live or recorded
 - Video or audio only
 - Web-based presentations
 - Lecturer, presenter, or panel member in a CPCE program
 - Attendance at Florida Supreme Court ADR committee or board meetings for the time spent on parenting coordination topics
 - Authoring or editing written materials submitted for publication that have significant intellectual or practical content directly related to the practice of parenting coordination
 - Successfully completion a self-directed program that is qualified for CE credit by a governmental licensing board

One way to earn free CPCE is the monthly PC Roundtable via zoom



A few KEY takeaways about CPCEs...

- ★ All CPCE credits will be based on a 50-minute hour
- ★ Hours applicable to more than one subject matter are eligible to be counted in more than one category of CPCE
- ★ CE completed for another profession's CE requirement may be used as CPCE



Parenting Coordinators must complete a minimum of 16 hours CPCE every 2 years

ETHICS (4hrs)

- 2 hrs specific to PC
- 2 hrs specific to PC or mediation

IPV: Interpersonal Violence (4 hrs)

- 2 hrs specific to PC focus on DV and child abuse, child neglect or abandonment
- 2 hrs

MENTAL HEALTH & FAMILY DYNAMICS

- 2 hrs

FL FAMILY LAW & RULES OF PROCEDURE

- 2 hrs

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

- 1 hr

OTHER

- 3 hours

CPCE
Interactive Exercise
(handout)

Three learning objectives



1st Identify the laws, rules, and forms (“LRFs”) that govern parenting coordination in Florida.

- 2nd Identify all changes adopted in the past year to the parenting coordination LRFs
- 3rd Understand how to comply with the changes to the parenting coordination LRFs



Three learning objectives



1st Identify the laws, rules, and forms (“LRFs”) that govern parenting coordination in Florida.



2nd Identify all changes adopted in the past year to the parenting coordination LRFs

➤ 3rd Understand how to comply with the changes to the parenting coordination LRFs



Three learning objectives



1st Identify the laws, rules, and forms (“LRFs”) that govern parenting coordination in Florida.



2nd Identify all changes adopted in the past year to the parenting coordination LRFs



3rd Understand how to comply with the changes to the parenting coordination LRFs



Contact:

Shana.FYI

