



CHOOSE AN ICF CERTIFIED COACH – It Makes Good Sense

The International Coach Federation (ICF) is the professional association of personal and business coaches that seeks to preserve the integrity of coaching around the globe. ICF:

- helps people find the coach most suitable for their needs
- supports and fosters development of the coaching profession
- has programs to maintain and upgrade the standards of the profession
- conducts a certification program that is the gold standard for coaches worldwide
- conducts the world's premier conference and other educational events for coaches.

ICF is the largest non-profit professional association worldwide for personal and business coaches, with more than 8300 members and over 132 chapters in 34 countries.

8 reasons for choosing an ICF Certified Coach

When you choose an ICF Certified Coach you know that your coach has:

1. a high knowledge and skill level and is professional trained
2. a high level of experience - your coach will have coached clients for a minimum of 100 hours. Coaches that hold the highest credential (MCC) have coached clients for a minimum of 2500 hours.
3. a certification that is awarded by the only independent coach credentialing body - one that is not linked with any coach training organisation.
4. a certification from the most widely recognised coach credentialing body in the world.
5. a code of ethics and standard of conduct. Every ICF certified coach subscribes to the ICF's philosophy of coaching and pledges to operate within the ICF Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct.
(see www.coachfederation.org/ethics/index.htm)
6. a process in place, the Ethical Conduct Review Policy and Procedures process, which addresses any concerns the public may have about a coach.
7. a commitment to on-going professional development and the maintenance of high professional standards. ACCs must agree to attend ICF sponsored educational tele-forums. PCCs and MCCs must re-new their certification every three years.
8. a respect for your confidentiality (see ICF Standards of Ethical Conduct, www.coachfederation.org/ethics/index.htm)

What are the ICF's certification criteria?

ICF has the most thorough credentialing procedures for the profession. There are three levels of ICF credential:

Associate Certified Coach (ACC)
Professional Certified Coach (PCC)
Master Certified Coach (MCC)

Each level of ICF coach certification requires:

- a length of coach-specific training (60 hours for ACC; 125 hours for PCC; 200 hours for MCC)
- a minimum level of coaching hours (100 for ACC; 750 for PCC; 2,500 for MCC)
- client references
- coach referees
- evidence of coaching/mentoring from a more highly certified coach/mentor
- passing an examination including testing on the ICF core competencies

How to find an ICF Certified Coach

1. Go to the ICF website: www.coachfederation.org
2. Click on the "Directory of ICF-Credentialed Coaches" on the bottom left of the navigation menu of the ICF home page.
3. Find a coach by choosing a level of credential or a country or both and clicking on the "Find Coach" button. A list of ICF Credentialed coaches will then be displayed.

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