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International Parenting Coordination Training Certificate Program

This course is provided across two parts. Part 1 and 2 may be provided in a continuous 6 day training approach, or in two 3 day approaches up to 12 months apart.

Part 1: Initial Parenting Coordination Training (21 hours)

Part 2: Advanced Parenting Coordination Training (21 hours)

DESCRIPTION OF PARENTING COORDINATION

Parenting Coordination is a child-centred alternative dispute resolution process that is particularly appropriate for parents who are in high conflict post separation and divorce. Parenting Coordination is an on-record, "With-Prejudice" process. Parenting Coordinators are typically mental health or legal professionals with child development, family systems, domestic violence, mediation and arbitration training and experience in assisting parents in high conflict to implement and, in some instances, create their parenting plans.

Parenting Coordination is a structured, mental health, ADR process that combines assessment, education, case management, conflict management, negotiation and, when necessary, decision-making functions (arbitration). Parenting Coordinators have extensive experience and qualifications for working with high conflict situations related to separation and divorce.

WHEN TO USE

This service is for families in moderate to high conflict post separation and divorce. Parents are self-referred or they enter into a Consent Order with legal counsel to attend this process. Judges also make Court Orders for Parenting Coordination. Parties have typically demonstrated a long-term inability or unwillingness to make parenting decisions on their own, to comply with parenting agreements and orders, to reduce their child-related conflicts and to protect their children from the impact of that conflict. The Parenting Coordinator assists in decreasing conflict and helps families to begin to function more smoothly. Many families experience high degrees of frustration due to divorce impasse and this process offers them relief from this dynamic. The Parenting Coordinator can be recommended or Court Ordered and, later may be responsible to report back to the Court.



Parents can enter into an agreement with a Parenting Coordinator, but the agreement details would be best outlined in a Consent Order as well. This way, the process is clear, and the parties are aware of the ability of the Parenting Coordinator to potentially make decisions when the parties cannot.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This 40-hour certificate course is intended for those who have been working in the field of separation and divorce for 2-5 years. Those in attendance will have a Master's degree in a Mental Health field, a degree in law, or education or be a practitioner in the Conflict Resolution field. Basic education in conflict resolution, negotiation, communication, interest-based mediation and mediation skills is required.

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS (AFCC) GUIDELINES

This program **recognizes the professional guidelines set forth by AFCC**. It is also in compliance with other Canadian Provincial Guidelines for qualifying to practice as a Parenting Coordinator. For a hyperlink to these guidelines please click [here](#).

PART 1 TRAINING: INITIAL TRAINING IN PARENTING COORDINATION THREE DAY (21 HOURS) CERTIFICATE COURSE

DAY ONE: INTRODUCTION TO PARENTING COORDINATION

1. Role of the Parenting Coordinator
2. Overview of the Parenting Coordination Approach
 - a. Parenting Coordination definition
 - b. What is typically addressed in PC?
 - c. Role play examples
 - d. Case Example Review
3. Referrals to PC
 - a. What is an appropriate referral
 - b. What is an inappropriate referral
4. Parenting Coordination Step by Step:
 - a. Setting the Stage: Parameters of the PC Contract, Developing a Contract to fit your practice/ Jurisdiction
 - b. Tailoring the process to the particular needs of the case
 - c. The initial session and preparing the parties for the process
 - d. Scheduling the time and location, and establishing the format of each conference and focusing discussion



- e. Structuring and managing the discussion, maintaining control of the sessions, and utilizing appropriate case management skills
- f. Managing separate sessions, telephonic and e-mail communication
- g. Maintaining appropriate records and documentation as a PC
5. Safe practice
 - a. Creating a safe structure
 - b. Case study
6. Introduction to Court Ordered PC:
 - a. Court ordered Parenting Coordination
 - b. Working with Lawyers/Attorneys
7. PC Authority: With or without Arbitration
 - a. PC with arbitration
 - b. PC without arbitration
 - c. Assisting parents to creating an appropriate Consent Order
8. Parenting plans

DAY TWO: CHILDREN, PARENTS AND THE FAMILY SYSTEMS

1. Parenting roles and functions
 - a. Co-parenting and good enough parenting (parenting in parallel)
 - b. Attachment and attachment interruptions
 - c. Family break-up story
2. Children in Post Separation
 - a. Impact of separation and divorce on children
 - b. Risk assessments for children
 - c. What do children say about what they need?
 - d. Vulnerabilities and Resiliencies
 - e. Temperament
 - f. Roles children play in family
 - g. Use of the Child and Youth Concerns Scale
 - h. Case Examples and role-play skills building exercise
3. Conflict, High Conflict and Hatred
 - a. Understanding the nuances of high conflict separations and divorces
 - b. High conflict styles
 - c. High conflict and impasse
 - d. Family systems and high conflict: separated families and extended families
 - e. Reactive and entrenched hatred
 - f. Use of the Parent Readiness Scale



4. Case example(s) and Role-play skills building exercise
 - a. Small and large group debrief

DAY THREE: STRATEGIES AND INTERVENTIONS IN PARENTING COORDINATION

1. Managing the Process
 - a. Goal-setting
 - b. Setting the stage
 - c. Identifying the level of structure needed to assist the parties
2. Managing different issues – special interventions/strategies
 - a. Individual sessions, caucusing, shuttle strategies
 - b. Coaching
3. How and when to include the children
 - a. Setting the stage for child inclusion
 - b. Strategies for safe inclusion
 - c. Meeting with children strategies
 - d. The Child Centred Continuum Approach
 - e. Developmental considerations
 - f. Bringing feedback to parents
4. The arbitration function
 - a. Arbitration Role: How and when to initiate this role?
5. Role-play: Skills building exercises

PART 2 TRAINING: ADVANCED TRAINING IN PARENTING COORDINATION

TWO (14 HOURS) OR THREE DAY (21 HOURS) CERTIFICATE COURSE

DAY ONE: CHILDREN RESISTING CONTACT, (ESTRANGMENT, ALIENATION) AND COMPLEX FAMILY DYNAMICS

1. Complexity in post separation families
 - a. The WISE™ approach to making sense of complexity
 - b. Managing complex family issues/dynamics
 - c. Case conceptualization/ review
2. Estrangement
 - a. Indicators of estrangement



- b. Management of estrangement in parenting coordination
 - c. Forming a safe meaningful relationship
3. Alienation
 - a. Indicators of alienation
 - b. Management of alienation in parenting coordination
 - c. Forming a safe meaningful relationship
 - d. Impacts of the extra-familial issues; step parents, extended family and grandparents, friends
4. Complexities
 - a. Identifying family violence and parenting coordination
 - b. Identifying drug and alcohol and parenting coordination
 - c. Identifying mental health and parenting coordination
5. Parenting coordination interventions
6. Role plays and Case studies

DAY TWO: USE OF A STRUCTURED PROCESS TO ASSIST DYSREGULATED PARTIES

1. Dysregulation in Parenting Coordination
 - a. Advanced use of the Parent Readiness Scale; working from a strengths base
 - b. Review of parent profile
2. Parent styles and the place of unresolved partner issues
 - a. Disengagement from the partner relationship
 - b. Disengagement and intense reactions; management strategies
 - c. Interventions with dysregulated parents; externalizing and internalizing parties
 - d. Engagement through the parent story; the value of the discourse
 - e. Attending and refocusing; keeping parents focused on their children's needs
 - f. Parents and children; building collaboration in the bi-family system
 - g. Parenting apart; the place of parallel parenting
3. Managing communication
 - a. Use of a communications log
4. Recording and Managing the Process
 - a. Maintaining session notes
 - b. Recording and report writing
 - c. Drafting Consent Awards



- d. Practice Activities – and drafting notes and reports
- 5. Court processes
 - a. Testifying in court
 - b. Special Legal Considerations related to your jurisdiction
- 6. Managing complaints
 - a. Internal complaints
 - b. Complaints to associations

DAY THREE: INTENSIVE FOCUS ON COMPLEXITY; DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DRUG AND ALCOHOL AND MENTAL HEALTH

- 1. Complexity defined
 - a. Complex cases compared to complicated cases and diversity
 - b. Expanded application of the WISE™ to complex cases
 - c. Interviewing and screening techniques
 - d. Working in parenting coordination with power imbalances; control, entitlement, and manipulation
 - e. How and when to include children?
 - f. Ethical dilemmas
- 2. Domestic and family violence
 - a. Identification of DFV
 - b. DFV screening and risk assessment
 - c. Implications for parenting coordination
- 3. Drug and alcohol abuse
 - a. Identification of drug and alcohol abuse
 - b. Drug and alcohol screening and risk assessment
 - c. Implications for parenting coordination
- 4. Mental health concerns
 - a. Identification of mental health concerns
 - b. Mental health screening and risk assessment
 - c. Implications for parenting coordination
- 5. Other complexities
 - a. Child abduction
 - b. Homicide/Suicide
 - c. Child abuse
 - d. Threats to immigrant status
- 6. Case studies



REGISTRATION

This 40- Hour Certificate Program can be completed in a 6-day continuous training series or it can be divided into segments. As part of the program, participants will be asked to submit a case study with an accompanying report or Arbitrated Award as one way to provide evidence of integration of materials. The program is offered internationally at a variety of court and non-court-based training sites.

MATERIALS

Participants will be provided with a training manual, bibliography and current articles for study and review. Review of videos and role play materials will be provided.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Participants will:

- 1) Learn about the multifaceted role of the Parenting Coordinator
- 2) Identify how and when to include children and also how to make use of the Child and Youth Concerns Scale
- 3) Create a structured approach to managing the PC role including strategies to assist parents in high conflict
- 4) Learn how and when to record session content and how to develop a contract that addresses the necessary components for the PC process
- 5) Explore the role of Arbitrator as part of the PC role and compare and contrast PC with Arbitration and PC without Arbitration.
- 6) Review inclusion of children and identify developmental issues and special ways to include children in a safe an appropriate manner
- 7) Learn about family systems in relation to high conflict
- 8) Identify how and when to use the Parent Readiness Scale and how to work with dis-regulated clients



- 9) Learn about and identify alienation factors and management strategies
- 10) Be exposed to domestic violence screening and assessment and how to work with power imbalances
- 11) Identify ethics and ethical dilemmas through case examples and small group exercises
- 12) Partake in role-plays and small group exercises in order to enhance practical skills needed by the Parenting Coordinator.

ABOUT THE TRAINERS

LORRI YASENIK



Ph.D., RSW, RPT-S, Reg. PC-Arb., Reg. Family Mediator

Lorri Yasenik is a Registered Family Mediator, Registered Parenting Coordinator-

Arbitrator, Registered Clinical Social Worker, Registered Play Therapist and Child Specialist based in Calgary, Alberta Canada. Lorri provides child psychotherapy and play therapy and is the Co-Director of Rocky Mountain Play Therapy Institute. She delivers national and international training related to children's issues and specialized child psychotherapy and play therapies. Her doctorate and post doctorate work is focused on child inclusive practice in separation and divorce.

JON GRAHAM



B.A. (Psych), B.Com., LLB., Grad Dip. Family Dispute Res, Nationally Accredited Mediator, Dip. Counselling

Jon Graham is a Registered Family Dispute Resolution

Practitioner (Family Mediator) based in Sydney Australia. Jon has qualifications in law, psychology and commerce as well as post-graduate qualifications in Family Mediation. Jon combines over 20 years of clinical experience with families affected by separation and divorce with a substantial training calendar across Australia. Jon is the Clinical Director of the Institute of Specialist Dispute Resolution, a provider of tailored family dispute resolution processes for families.