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President's Message

Hon. Linda Fidnick

In the wake of a successful in-person conference last May in Chicago, it is exciting to see how many of you have registered for our *15th Symposium on Child Custody* at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas from November 10-12. As of October 18, we have nearly 500 people registered to attend.



It will be, as all of our conferences are, an outstanding opportunity to learn with and from colleagues of all disciplines engaged in helping adults and children who

15th Symposium on Child Custody

Las Vegas, Nevada
November 10-12, 2022



Presenting Sponsor



[AFCC Chapter Conferences](#)

are experiencing divorce and separation. Come on Thursday, November 10, for one of the intensive day long institutes, followed by the opening session about the new *Guidelines for Parenting Plan Evaluations*. Then on Friday and Saturday, you can attend a fascinating plenary session on a new topic—concept creep—along with 90-minute sessions about topics ranging from the impact of affairs on parent-child relationships to the unique vulnerabilities of children with special needs.

[Continue Reading](#)

15th Symposium on Child Custody



From a Full House to Parenting Apart

November 10-12, 2022

*Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada*

The 15th Symposium on Child Custody is in less than a month! Get in on the action and join AFCC in Las Vegas! Read the [conference program brochure!](#)

Take advantage of intensive learning with an AFCC Pre-Symposium Institute

Choose from one of four full-day institutes:

1. When the Deck is Stacked: Sorting Stress from Trauma in Family Court
2. Playing Your Cards Right: Meaningful Integration of Test Data into a Parenting Plan Evaluation
3. Co-parent Coaching as Dispute Resolution
4. The ABC's and 123's of a Child Custody Evaluation

Book Your Room

[AFCC Maryland Annual Conference](#)

October 21, 2022
Annapolis, MD

[AFCC Illinois Annual Conference](#)

October 20, 2022
Chicago, IL

[AFCC Colorado](#)

October 28-29, 2022
Denver, CO / Virtual

[AFCC Texas Annual Conference](#)

December 8-9, 2022
Austin, TX

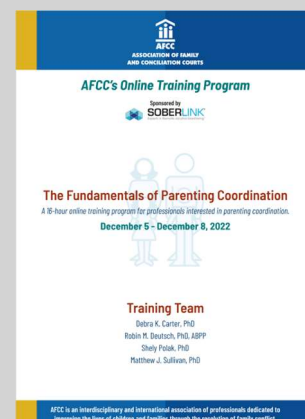
[AFCC Arizona Annual Conference](#)

January 20-22, 2023
Sedona, AZ

[AFCC California Annual Conference](#)

February 10-12, 2023
Costa Mesa, CA

[AFCC Virtual Training Programs](#)



[The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination](#)

December 5-8, 2022

[Advanced Issues in](#)

The AFCC room block has sold out, but you can still [book](#) a room at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino at the regular rate.

Exhibitor Prospectus

Exhibitors at AFCC conferences enjoy the opportunity to reach hundreds of professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict. Your business could hit the jackpot, too! Exhibitor spots were sold out, but we added a few additional exhibitor opportunities. Sign up soon to reserve your spot! [Read the prospectus](#) and contact [Patrick Sommer](#) to sign up now.

[Register Now](#)

Ten Tips for Using the AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Plan Evaluations in Family Law Cases

Kathleen McNamara, PhD and Arnold Shienvold, PhD

The AFCC Board of Directors approved the *Guidelines for Parenting Plan Evaluations in Family Law Cases* in May 2022. The *Guidelines* were developed by an AFCC Task Force that worked for more than two years on revisions to the *Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation*. In this column, Task Force Chair Arnold Shienvold and Reporter Kathleen McNamara dispense advice on using the new AFCC *Guidelines*.

1) Be Prepared.

“Before anything else, preparation is the key to success.” - Alexander Bell

Parenting plan evaluations are hard to do well, and they can have a significant impact on families. To ensure a competent, ethical process and quality work product, be prepared for the challenging terrain, difficult conditions, and unexpected events that can, and often do, occur along the way.

[Continue Reading](#)

Ask the Experts

Child Custody


January 17-19, 2023

The Fundamentals of Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations

March 13-16, and
March 20-22, 2023

60th Anniversary Conference

May 31-June 3, 2023
Los Angeles, California



ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS
AFCC

60th Anniversary Conference
60 Years of Asking the Difficult Questions
LOS ANGELES
Westin Bonaventure • May 31-June 3, 2023

The questions may have changed, but the challenges remain. For six decades, AFCC members have addressed the most difficult issues for parents and children experiencing separation and divorce. Divorce or reconciliation? Joint or sole custody? Mediate or litigate? Children's rights or parents' rights? Best interests or rebuttable presumptions? False allegations? Do children feel alienated, high conflict, or abused? Lawyers or pro se? Trial or overnight? Parental unavailability—what's a court to do? Virtual or in-person? Join us for our 60th Anniversary Celebration in the heart of AFCC as we take on new questions and revisit those that just don't seem to go away.

Conference Topics:

- Access to Justice
- Cultural Issues in Family Law
- International Family Law Perspectives
- Direct and Cross-examination
- Family Court Reform
- LGBTQ+ Families
- New Ideas for Parent Education Programs
- Innovations in Family Court Services
- Parent-child Contact Problems
- Mediation: Online or Face to Face?
- Parenting Plan Evaluations
- Intimate Partner Violence
- What do Judges Need to Know?
- Parenting Coordination
- Family Law and Mental Health
- Research on Family Law
- Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse
- Family Dispute Resolution Innovations

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Six Secrets to Successful Co-Parent Coaching

Amy Armstrong, MSW and Hon. Randall Fuller

In Delaware County, Ohio, Domestic Relations Court, there is no shortage of innovative programs for resolving conflict. Judge Randall D. Fuller has brought in a Settlement Week twice a year, a successful Neutral Evaluation program, and Co-Parent Coaching to support families going through separation, divorce, or post-decree matters. The Co-Parent Coaching program is highlighted in one of the pre-conference institutes at the upcoming AFCC Symposium on Child Custody in Las Vegas. Judge Fuller is presenting along with Amy Armstrong, a co-parent coach who works part-time in Judge Fuller's court working with moms and dads with active court cases.

[Continue Reading](#)

AFCC Online Training Programs

AFCC's Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination returns in December! Join AFCC for a 16-hour online training program for professionals interested in parenting coordination!

[The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination](#)

December 5-8, 2022

This comprehensive parenting coordination (PC) training is based on the 2019 AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Coordination and the Recommendations for Comprehensive Training of Parenting Coordinators. This program will include a comprehensive overview of the parenting coordination process, including definition of the role, responsibilities, and function of the parenting coordinator; an overview of family dynamics; specific PC strategies, techniques, and interventions; implications of intimate partner violence; cultural considerations; ethical issues; and use of technology.

Participants will learn about the parenting coordinator's scope of authority, strategies to help parents improve cooperation and communication, how to help clients utilize the process, and how to effectively write recommendations or decisions.

The [training team](#) includes:

- Debra K. Carter, PhD
- Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP
- Shely Polak, PhD
- Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD

[View the program brochure!](#)

[Register Now!](#)

[Stay Tuned for More AFCC Training Programs](#)

[Advanced Issues in Child Custody](#)

January 17-19, 2023

[The Fundamentals of Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations](#)

March 13-16, and
March 20-22, 2023

Webinar Corner

Understanding Adults Who Sexually Abuse Children

Graham Hill, PhD

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

1:00pm – 2:00pm Eastern Time (US/Canada)



Registration will close on November 15, 2022 at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada.

This presentation aims to dispel some of the common myths that surround the behavior of adults who sexually abuse children. It outlines a conceptual model to describe how perpetrators develop and maintain their deviant sexual arousal to children despite the risk and consequences.

AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC maintains responsibility for the program and its content. The program is eligible for up to 1 hour of continuing education for psychologists.

Graham Hill, PhD is a British Criminologist and an expert in relation to the behavior of child sexual abusers. He is the founder and first Head of Behavioral Analysis for the UK Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre and a research Fellow at Leeds University in England. Graham's investigative career and research background gives him a unique perspective of sexual crimes against children, and he lectures internationally on a wide range of interrelated subjects. He is a member of the British Society of Criminology and a Visiting Research Fellow at Leeds University in England.



Registration

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$50

Certificate of Attendance

Members: \$15

Non-members: \$20

[Register Now!](#)

More Upcoming Webinars!

[Family Dispute Resolution Research](#)

Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, ABPP

December 13, 2022

[Child Abuse and Culture \(DE&I Series\)](#)

Nolanda Robert, MS; Kelly Browe Olson, JD, LLM

January 5, 2023

[Access to Justice/Family Dispute Resolution Services](#)

Jeannie Sato, JD, Loren P. Hildebrandt, JD

January 11, 2023

AFCC 60th Anniversary Conference: Make Your Hotel Reservations Today!

60 Years of Asking the Difficult Questions

May 31-June 3, 2023

Westin Bonaventure

Los Angeles, California

The room block for the AFCC 15th Symposium is sold out, but the Westin Bonaventure in Los Angeles is accepting reservations for the AFCC 60th Anniversary Conference, May 31-June 3, 2023. You can make your reservations [online](#) or over the phone by calling 800-937-8461 or 888-627-8520. Plan early to attend this amazing celebration of 60 years of AFCC!

AFCC Member News

Nicholas Bala, AFCC member from Ontario, is this year's Dena Moyal Distinguished Service Award recipient. The award is presented by the Ontario Chapter of AFCC and honors a member for exemplary contributions to the Ontario Chapter. Nick's contributions to the AFCC-Ontario and the greater family justice system of Ontario and beyond have been exemplary, sustained and much of it interdisciplinary. It includes the AFCC-Ontario Parenting Plan Guide and Template, an initiative that Nick proposed when he was a member of the Board of Directors of AFCC-Ontario and led to a successful conclusion and release in January 2020—since updated and translated into French. Congratulations, Nick!



Hon. Randall D. Fuller, AFCC member from Ohio and judge of the Delaware County Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division, has been appointed to the Ohio Judicial College Board of Trustees. The appointment is for a three-year term. Randy stated, "The Ohio Judicial College does an excellent job providing important and educational information to judicial officers, court personnel and guardians." He noted, "I have enjoyed working with the Ohio Judicial College staff. It is an honor to be appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Ohio Judicial College." Congratulations, Randy!



Leslie Ellen Shear, AFCC member from California, was elected last month as a fellow of the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation: The Fellows is a global honorary society of attorneys, judges, law faculty, and legal scholars whose public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the highest principles of the legal profession and to the welfare of their communities. Membership in the Fellows is limited to 1% of licensed lawyers in a jurisdiction. Congratulations, Leslie!



Archana Medhekar, AFCC member from Ontario, has completed her LLM focused in Dispute Resolution from Osgoode Hall Law School. In addition to her studies, Archana also makes contributions to AFCC as a member of the AFCC Chapter Committee. Congratulations, Archana!



Shely Polak, PhD, AFCC member from Ontario, has been recognized for her outstanding contribution to success of the Ontario Chapter of AFCC. Shely is a former president of the AFCC Ontario Chapter. Congratulations, Shely!



AFCC Chapter News

Congratulations to the new North Carolina Board of Directors!

President: April Harris-Britt

Vice President/President-Elect: Danielle Kestnbaum

Secretary: Lisa Marie Johnson

Treasurer: Elysia Prendergast-Jones

Maria Curran

Hon. K. Michelle Fletcher

Jonathan W Gould
Nancy L Grace
Cynthia Sortisio
Whitney Taylor
Kimberly A. Wallis

AFCC eNEWS

The *AFCC eNEWS* is the monthly e-newsletter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. The *eNEWS* provides up-to-date information for professionals including practice tips, international news, and the latest initiatives in family law and conflict resolution. The *AFCC eNEWS* is provided at no charge to you; anyone can subscribe. [Subscribe here](#).

AFCC members are free to share eNEWS content.

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