



**ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY
AND CONCILIATION COURTS**

In collaboration with
University of Baltimore School of Law
Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center
for Families, Children and the Courts

Parenting Coordination: Essential Tools for Conflict Resolution

Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA

December 3-4, 2018



Advanced Issues in High Conflict Child Custody Cases

Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP

December 5-6, 2018



December 3, 4, and 6

University of Baltimore, Town Hall, H. Mebane Turner Learning Commons, First Floor,
1415 Maryland Ave, Baltimore, MD 21201

December 5

University of Baltimore, Hilda and Michael Bogomolny Room, Student Center, Fifth Floor,
21 West Mt. Royal Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21201

**AFCC is an interdisciplinary and international association of professionals
dedicated to improving the lives of children and families
through the resolution of family conflict.**

Parenting Coordination: Essential Tools for Conflict Resolution

A two-day training program for parenting coordinators, mediators, custody evaluators, lawyers, judges, therapists, and other professionals who work with high conflict families.

This program will describe the fundamentals of parenting coordination (PC), including the principles and functions of the PC role, the knowledge base for being an effective PC, and ethical guidelines. This interactive training will assist professionals in understanding the PC process, scope of authority, and techniques and strategies to help parents improve cooperation and communication. Participants will learn how to help clients utilize the process and how to effectively write recommendations or decisions.

Participants in this two-day training program will learn to:

- Differentiate the parenting coordinator role from other related roles
- Identify the impact of high conflict dynamics on parents and children
- Apply an understanding of high conflict dynamics to parenting coordinator role
- Establish screening techniques for domestic violence
- Establish an effective parenting coordinator contract
- Identify in-session and between-session strategies for managing conflict
- Implement strategies for improving parents' communication
- Avoid alignment with clients through self-check for bias
- Write effective recommendations/decisions

About the Presenter

Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA, is a licensed psychologist practicing in Minneapolis. She received a Master of Education from Harvard University and a Master of Arts from the University of Minnesota. She specializes in work with families in the divorce process and with victims of abuse and their families. Ms. Mitnick has trained professionals throughout the country and abroad in identification and treatment of child abuse, the use of expert witnesses in child abuse and divorce cases, effective interviewing techniques with children, interventions in high-conflict divorce, and the impact of psychological trauma. She has been a speaker for the National Child Protection Training Center, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse, National Association of Counsel for Children, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and numerous statewide multidisciplinary training programs. Ms. Mitnick has written and taught extensively about the assessment of child sexual abuse allegations during custody disputes. Ms. Mitnick served as a member of the ABA Criminal Justice Section Task Force on Child Witnesses and the AFCC Task Force on Guidelines for Court-Involved Therapy. She serves as the Secretary on the AFCC Executive Committee.



Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA

Agenda

Monday, December 3, 2018, 8:30am-4:30pm

1. Understanding the parenting coordinator role and how it differs from other roles
2. High conflict from the perspective of the parent and the child
3. Domestic violence screening and the impact of DV on parenting
4. Applying the parenting coordinator guidelines
5. Why do I need a contract? What should it cover?

Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 8:30am-4:30pm

1. Strategies for decreasing conflict
2. Strategies for improving communication
3. Ethical dilemmas
4. Writing recommendations/decisions
5. Lessons I learned before—and after—it was too late

Advanced Issues in High Conflict Child Custody Cases

A two-day training program for evaluators, therapists, parenting coordinators, mediators, lawyers, judges, parent educators, and other professionals who work with high conflict families.

This program will focus on three areas of complex child custody work for new and experienced evaluators, attorneys, judges, parenting coordinators, and family therapists. Topics will include: (1) assessing and managing difficult clients including those with mental illness, substance abuse, trauma, and personality disorders; (2) assessment of intimate partner violence and effects on children, parenting, and co-parenting; (3) an introduction to addressing children's resistance or refusal to have contact with a parent.

Participants in this two-day training program will learn to:

- Recognize personality and mental illness factors that may impact parenting
- Distinguish the impact of trauma on behavior and parenting
- Identify tips for managing high conflict parents
- Demonstrate the components of an evaluation of intimate partner violence
- Apply a systematic approach to assessing intimate partner violence
- Identify the impact of intimate partner violence on children and parents, parenting, and co-parenting
- Consider appropriate parenting and co-parenting arrangements in cases where intimate partner violence exists
- Differentiate types of parent-child contact problems and identify matching interventions
- Identify the multiple systems necessary to manage families when a child resists or refuses contact with a parent
- Consider treatment approaches when a child resists/refuses contact with a parent

About the Presenter

Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP, served as the director of the Center of Excellence for Children, Families and the Law at the William James College (www.williamjames.edu/cffc) through August 2018. Previously she was on the faculty of Harvard Medical School, most recently as an Associate Clinical Professor of Psychology. Dr. Deutsch is a child and family forensic psychologist, mediator, parenting coordinator, and is board certified in couple and family psychology. She provides consultation services to attorneys and courts. She developed the Certificate in Child and Family Forensic Issues at William James College and is a founder of Overcoming Barriers, an organization that provides family-centered services for families in conflict. She is a former president of the Massachusetts chapter of AFCC, former president of AFCC, and former Chair of the APA Ethics Committee.



Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP

Agenda

Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 8:30am-4:00pm

1. Dealing with parents with personality disorders
2. Decision-making process for examining mental health allegations in custody matters
3. Components of an evaluation of intimate partner violence (IPV)
4. Effects of IPV on children, parents, parenting, and co-parenting

Thursday, December 6, 2018, 8:30am-4:00pm

1. Parenting arrangements when IPV is present
2. Differentiating parent-child contact problems
3. Screening cases with allegations of parent alienation
4. Court and professional involvement in cases with parent-child contact problems
5. Intervention options for families when a child resists/refuses contact

General Information

Parenting Coordination: Essential Tools for Conflict Resolution

December 3-4, 2018, 8:30am-4:00pm

Advanced Issues in High Conflict Child Custody Cases

December 5-6, 2018, 8:30am-4:00pm

Location:

Please note: *The programs will take place at different locations on campus.*

December 3, 4, and 6: University of Baltimore, Hilda and Michael Bogomolny Room, Student Center, Fifth Floor, 21 West Mt. Royal Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21201

December 5: University of Baltimore, Town Hall, H. Mebane Turner Learning Commons, First Floor, 1415 Maryland Ave, Baltimore, MD 21201

Registration: Registration includes electronic program materials, training, and refreshments. Lunch is on your own. Register early—class size is limited.

Continuing Education Credits: Each two-day training program is eligible for 12 hours of continuing education for psychologists. AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC maintains responsibility for the program and its content. The University of Baltimore School of Law Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts, as a state accredited academic institution, qualifies as an automatic sponsor for offering academic courses or programs recognized as acceptable social work curriculum subject areas pursuant to the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners Continuing Education Regulations. Continuing legal education is not mandatory in Maryland; registrants outside the state will need to seek approval with their state's bar or licensing board.

Lodging: A block of rooms has been reserved at Hotel Indigo Baltimore-Downtown, 24 W. Franklin Street, Baltimore, MD, 21011 in the name of AFCC. For reservations at the special rate of \$99/night plus tax for single or double occupancy, call 410-625-6200 and request the AFCC-University of Baltimore special rate or reserve online at www.afccnet.org. Make your reservations soon—any unreserved rooms will be released November 5, 2018.

Cancellation Policy: Transfer of registration to another person may be done once, at any time, without a fee. All requests for refunds must be made in writing. Written notice of cancellation received by fax or postmarked by November 12, 2018, will be issued a full refund minus a \$75 service fee. No refunds will be issued for cancellations received after November 12, 2018. AFCC reserves the right to cancel any training or substitute any presenter should circumstances arise beyond our control.

More Information: For program and registration inquiries, contact AFCC at 608-664-3750 or afcc@afccnet.org. For information about lodging and onsite logistics, contact Michele Hong-Polansky, at the Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts, 410-837-5288 or mhongpolansky@ubalt.edu. For the latest information on AFCC trainings and conferences, visit www.afccnet.org.

Registration

Join AFCC when you register for the training and save up to \$205! Select "New Membership Special" when completing registration form.

First Name (Dr./Mr./Ms./Judge) _____ M.I. _____ Last Name _____

Degree _____ Title/Profession _____

Organization _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Country _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

	AFCC Member	Non- member
New Membership Special <i>Join AFCC* and save \$10 on your first year of membership and register at member rates! For first-time members only.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> \$150

Parenting Coordination: Essential Tools for Conflict Resolution December 3-4, 2018	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325	<input type="checkbox"/> \$425
--	--------------------------------	--------------------------------

Advanced Issues in High Conflict Child Custody Cases December 5-6, 2018	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325	<input type="checkbox"/> \$425
---	--------------------------------	--------------------------------

BOTH trainings (discounted rate)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$595	<input type="checkbox"/> \$800
--	--------------------------------	--------------------------------

Total	\$ _____	\$ _____
--------------	----------	----------

Payment method:

Registrations must be paid in full prior to attendance.

☐ Check or money order enclosed (US currency only please)

☐ Please charge my credit card ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Credit card transactions will be process in US dollars; exchange rate on day of transaction will apply.

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ / _____ Security Code _____ Billing Zip/Postal Code _____

Name on Credit Card _____ Cardholder's Signature _____

You may register online at www.afccnet.org or return completed form and payment to:

AFCC
6525 Grand Teton Plaza
Madison, WI 53719
Phone: 608-664-3750
Fax: 608-664-3751
afcc@afccnet.org

*AFCC membership includes a print and electronic subscription to the AFCC quarterly academic and research journal, *Family Court Review*, with full online access to all archives. Membership also includes a subscription to *AFCC eNEWS*, reduced registration rates for AFCC conferences, webinars, and trainings, access to the online Member Center featuring archived webinars, and the searchable Member Directory. More information is available at www.afccnet.org.