

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY



AND CONCILIATION COURTS

AFCC

Ninth Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

October 28-30, 2010



**Cambridge/Boston, Massachusetts
Hyatt Regency Cambridge**

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

Ninth Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

PRE-SYMPOSIUM INSTITUTES

Separate registration required for institutes.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2010

9:00am–4:30pm

1. The Essentials of Child Custody Evaluations

This institute will address the essential components of the evaluation process from acceptance of the assignment to testimony. Emphasis will be placed on how to manage the initial contacts with attorneys and litigants and on the development of a comprehensive Statement of Understanding between the evaluator and the litigants. The presenter will offer recommendations concerning risk management procedures with a focus on how to minimize the animosity litigants often experience toward evaluators. This institute is designed for both beginning and experienced evaluators.

David Martindale, Ph.D., ABPP, Co-author, The Art and Science of Child Custody Evaluations, St. Petersburg, FL

2. Evidence and Testimony in Child Custody Evaluations

Participants in this institute will learn about the fundamental rules of evidence and related concepts that govern how forensic psychologists present their work and opinions via sworn testimony. Topics include: introductory concepts and legal terminology, the hearsay rule and the exceptions most commonly encountered by expert witnesses, the general rules governing expert testimony, issues of evidentiary reliability under *Frye* and *Daubert*, the purpose and scope of direct and cross-examination, and effective strategies for communicating one's expert opinions in legal proceedings.

Timothy Tippins, J.D., Albany, NY

3. Using the MMPI-2-RF (Restructured Form) in Child Custody Evaluations

The MMPI-2-RF is a new 338-item version of one of the most commonly used psychological tests in child custody evaluations. This institute explains the rationale for and the outcome of the revision, including a description of the 50 scales of the MMPI-2-RF, the documentation available to guide its use and interpretation, and the empirical literature on the instrument. Features of particular relevance to child custody evaluations, including the availability of a child custody litigant reference group, will be highlighted. Numerous case examples will be used to demonstrate the test's use in custody evaluations. Special consideration when using revised measures in forensic evaluations will be discussed. A familiarity with the MMPI-2 is assumed.

Yossef S. Ben-Porath, Ph.D., Kent State University, Kent, OH

James R. Flens, Psy.D., ABPP, Brandon, FL

4. Mental Health-Attorney Consultation in Child Custody Cases: From Witness Support to Testimony

Consultation in child custody matters is a growing area of practice that raises important ethical considerations. This institute will examine advantages and limitations of mental health consultation with special attention to ethical issues related to coaching, consulting, the role of the reviewer and legal protections for work of the consultant. Presenters will consider key issues including role clarification; elements of informed consent; implications for the ethics and credibility of the consultant; and effective use of an expert witness to conduct discovery and prepare for trial. The institute will include audience discussion of diverse practices and services offered in the context of attorney-mental health consultation.

David Medoff, Ph.D., Suffolk University, Boston, MA

Hon. William Fee, Angola, IN

Robert A. Simon, Ph.D., San Diego, CA

Samuel J. Ferrara, J.D., Abrams, Fensterman, et al, Lake Success and New York, NY

Hon. Dianna Gould-Saltman, Los Angeles, CA

Save the Dates!

AFCC 48th Annual Conference

June 1-4, 2011

Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek Resort
Orlando, Florida

AFCC Regional Training Conference

October 27-29, 2011

Hyatt Regency Indianapolis
Indianapolis, Indiana