



FAMILY LAW



Parenting Coordinator Training



REGISTER TODAY for this comprehensive five-day workshop.

Mondy - Friday, September 16 - 20, 2013, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

UBC Robson Square, 800 Robson Street, Vancouver

THE CONTINUING LEGAL
EDUCATION SOCIETY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Parenting Coordinator Training

FIVE-DAY WORKSHOP

Mondy - Friday, September 16 - 20, 2013

9:00 am – 5:00 pm



LIVE COURSE

UBC Robson Square
800 Robson Street, Vancouver

NOTE: Occasionally course details may change. You will receive an email approximately one day before the course date confirming final course details.

WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION ON DAY 3:
time and location TBA.



LIVE WEBINAR

DAY 3 ONLY option is available online.



COURSE MATERIALS

Registration includes workshop materials.

NOTE: You will continue to receive a print copy of the materials at the course. **In addition**, you will receive an email with a link to the online version of the materials approximately one day before the course.

COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Barbara Jo Fidler, PhD — *Family Solutions, Toronto*
Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD — *Palo Alto, CA*

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Stephanie L. Fabbro — *Hamilton Fabbro Law Corporation, Vancouver*

R. Craig Neville — *Watson Goepel LLP, Vancouver*

CLEBC PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Mary Kingston,
Production Manager - Programs
mkingston@cle.bc.ca



WHO SHOULD ATTEND: All those wishing to offer parenting coordination as part of their client services: family lawyers, mediators, arbitrators, parenting coordinators, and mental health and collaborative professionals.

LEARNING LEVEL: All levels

BACKGROUND

Parenting coordination is a child focused-dispute resolution process offered to separated, divorced, and divorcing parents who need assistance in child-centered issues. Parenting coordination helps the parents and their child(ren) move forward to healthier and more satisfying decisions.

This 40-hour training is suitable for mental health professionals, mediators, and lawyers. Experienced family law lawyers, counsellors, social workers, family therapists and psychologists who have special training in mediating and arbitrating parenting disputes also require 40 hours of parenting coordinator training under the *Family Law Act*. Attending this 5-day training will satisfy the 40-hour requirement. No previous experience or knowledge of parenting coordination is required. The training will include discussions using case vignettes, audio-visual materials, demonstrations, and role plays.

THE PROGRAM

Days 1 and 2, presented by Dr. Fidler, will cover the roles and functions of the parenting coordinator, the historical context, including the status of parenting coordination in the US and Canada, professional guidelines and training requirements, current research on effectiveness and inappropriate cases, and characteristics of high conflict families. Intimate partner violence and the implications for the PC process and the key components of the PC Order or on-consent Retainer Agreement will be addressed. Using case examples, the nuts and bolts of the process, including referral, intake, and contracting, the consensus building phase, involvement of collateral sources, and an overview of the arbitration phase will be discussed.

To prepare parenting coordinators for their role as parent educator, the relevant social science literature research will be summarized. These topics include: the impact of separation/divorce on children and adolescents; consequences of parental conflict on children and adolescents and its impact on parenting and the quality of parent-child relationships; different types of parenting styles and effectiveness; impact of parent adjustment and fathering on child and adolescent adjustment; and developmental considerations for parenting time schedules for infants/toddlers, preschoolers, school-age children and adolescents.

Presented by Dr. Fidler, the focus on the **Day 3** will be "Voice of the Child". She will review the social science research on the benefits and cautions of listening to the voices of children and adolescents. She will identify various ways the child's voice can be obtained and integrated into different dispute resolution options such as child representation, mediation, assessment, parenting coordination, and judicial processes. Dr. Fidler will discuss factors related to the reliability of the input provided by children and adolescents, including interviewer bias, memory, suggestibility and maturity. Finally, she will summarize a developmentally informed interview protocol.

Days 4 and 5 will be presented by Dr. Matthew Sullivan. This part of the training will present a conceptual model of coparenting work for high conflict coparents. Disengagement through the structure of the parenting plan, and management of communication between coparents are the essential components of this parenting coordination model. He will present the nuts and bolts of constructing and management of a parallel parenting model including the use of email, shared parenting websites, and highly structured parenting coordination sessions. Dr. Sullivan will provide strategies for successful partnerships with other professionals typically involved in these cases. Participants will work with case vignettes that illustrate the ways that these cases can get derailed and pose challenges to effective case management. The last part of the presentation will address professional practice and professional risk management in this complex role.

Law Society of BC CPD Hours: 40 HOURS (a minimum of **2 HOURS** will involve aspects of professional responsibility and ethics, client care and relations, and/or practice management)

WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION ON DAY 3: time and location TBA.

AGENDA

DAY 1: Monday, Sept. 16
Dr. Barbara Fidler

MORNING

Introductions and Overview

Definition, Roles and Functions

Historical Development of Parenting Coordination

- status in United States and Canada
- variations in practice
- professional standards of practice, guidelines, and training requirements

Research: Benefits and Effectiveness

Inappropriate Cases

AFTERNOON

High Conflict Families: Personality Disorders and Characteristics

Using Social Science to Inform Parent Education

- consequences of separation/divorce and parental conflict on children and adolescents: risk and protective factors
- child development and attachment
- parent-child contact problems
- effective parenting and co-parenting

Parenting Coordination Process

- referral, intake, and contracting
 - » intimate partner violence: implications for parenting coordination

DAY 2: Tuesday, Sept. 17
Dr. Barbara Fidler

MORNING

Parenting Coordination Process (cont'd)

- referral, intake, and contracting (cont'd)
 - » review of key elements of the Parenting Coordination Agreement
 - » role play

AFTERNOON

- assessment of family dynamics, parental conflict, and impasse
- consensus building and facilitation: mediation, conflict resolution, and disengagement
 - » parenting plans for high conflict
 - » involvement of experts and collaterals sources
- arbitration: overview of procedure and writing awards

DAY 3: Wednesday, Sept. 18
Dr. Barbara Fidler

MORNING

Voice of the Child: Methods & Considerations For Involving Children in Dispute Resolution Work

- voice of the child: perspectives for and against
- involvement of children in mediation, assessment, wishes and preferences reports, parenting coordination, and judicial processes
- reliability of children's reports: relevant factors—interviewer bias, social influence, memory, suggestibility, and undue influence

AFTERNOON

How Children and Adolescents Think: Maturity and Development

Interview Format and Protocol

- types of questions: continuum of suggestiveness from open-ended to leading questions
- demonstration
- discussion

WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION

DAY 4: Thursday, Sept. 19
Dr. Matthew Sullivan

Coparenting Work: Understanding, Constructing and Maintaining a Parallel Parenting Model for High Conflict Coparents

Disengagement Strategies

- using parenting plans to reduce engagement
- structuring functional coparent engagement: the PC as the communication manager
 - » managing child-focused information exchange
 - the use of cyberspace in shared parenting
 - » resolution strategies for disputes that come up as coparents implement their parenting plans
 - process issues versus substantive issues
 - from simple arbitration to dispute resolution

Coordination of Professional Involvement

- child therapist-PC teamwork
- expanding the team

DAY 5: Friday, Sept. 20
Dr. Matthew Sullivan

MORNING

When the PC Process Gets Derailed: Case Vignettes, Discussion

- using a series of vignettes to illustrate typical challenges in the work: challenges to authority, boundary violations

AFTERNOON

Managing Parenting Coordination Practice in the 21st century

- connectivity: setting and maintaining boundaries
- websites, threats to practice

PC Practice Issues: Using a Series of Vignettes to Identify Common Ethical and Professional Practice Issues; Discussion of Strategies to Manage and Minimize Risk

- conflicts of interest, fee management, impartiality, and more

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS

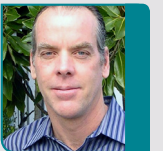
BARBARA JO FIDLER has been a registered clinical developmental psychologist since 1987. She is an accredited mediator practicing in Ontario, Canada. Dr. Fidler provides mediation, arbitration, parenting coordination, and case consultation to child protection agencies and other professionals, and expert court testimony. Her practice also includes child, individual, marital, and family therapy, and reunification interventions with families experiencing alienation and other parent-child contact problems. She is a frequent presenter and trainer to the judiciary, family bar, court workers and mental health professionals on dispute resolution processes and interventions with high conflict families.

Dr. Fidler is on the editorial board of the *Family Court Review* and has published articles and chapters about separation/divorce, parenting plans and residential schedules, alienation, and parenting coordination. She is co-author of two books on child custody evaluation: *Child Custody Assessments and Challenging Issues in Child Custody Disputes* (2008), both resource guides for legal and mental health professionals. Dr. Fidler was co-editor of the January 2010 special issue of the *Family Court Review*: Alienated Children in Divorce and Separation: Emerging Approaches for Families and is co-author of the recently published (2013) book *Children Resisting Post-Separation Contact: A Differential Approach for Legal and Mental Professionals*. She is the past president of AFCC Ontario (2011-2012) and a member of the High Conflict Forum in Toronto.



MATTHEW J. SULLIVAN is a native northern Californian, who received his AB from Stanford University and PhD in clinical community psychology from the University of Maryland in 1985. Since that time, he has been in private practice in Palo Alto, California, specializing in forensic and clinical work in the Family Courts. His full-time private practice focuses on work with high conflict shared custody situations. He serves in a variety of court-related roles, including mediator, coparent counselor, parenting coordinator, testifying expert, and consultant. He has written numerous articles and book chapters, and presented and done trainings at national and international venues on topics such as high-conflict divorce, parenting coordination, child alienation, mental health consultation in family law cases, and court-involved therapy.

Dr. Sullivan is currently serving on the editorial board of the *Journal of Child Custody*, and serves on the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) international board of directors and the AFCC California board of directors. He was co-chair of the AFCC task force which developed guidelines for Court-Involved Therapists and served on the AFCC Task Force on Parenting Coordination, which developed the first guidelines for Parenting Coordination practice. Dr. Sullivan served on the American Psychological and American Bar Association working group on legal and psychological interventions with children and families. He is the co-founder of Overcoming Barriers, inc., which is a non-profit organization that has developed a variety of programs for high conflict shared custody arrangements. Dr. Sullivan received the 2012 Joseph Drown award for outstanding service to children, presented by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, California chapter.



Parenting Coordinator Training

SURNAME GIVEN NAME INITIAL

FIRM NAME

POSITION: ☐ SOLE PRACTITIONER ☐ PARTNER ☐ ASSOCIATE ☐ STUDENT ☐ RESEARCHER☐ LEGAL SUPPORT STAFF ☐ OTHER _____

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EVERYONE.

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If you are a lawyer in good standing with the Law Society of BC, or support staff, and you would not be able to attend a CLEBC course (live, live webinar, or video repeat) without financial assistance, then you qualify for a CLEBC Bursary.

EASY PAY PLAN

The **Easy Pay Plan** allows you to register for courses and purchase publications now and pay later.

✓ REGISTER ME FOR:	DATE/LOCATION	PRICE + GST = TOTAL
<input type="radio"/> 5-DAY WORKSHOP – Live Course (1095013)	September 16 - 20/VANCOUVER EARLY BIRD! by Aug. 19	\$1,750 + \$87.50 = \$1,837.50
<input type="radio"/> 5-DAY WORKSHOP – Live Course (1095013)	September 16 - 20/VANCOUVER	\$1,950 + \$97.50 = \$2,047.50
<input type="radio"/> DAYS 1 & 2 ONLY – Live Course (1095013)	September 16 & 17/VANCOUVER EARLY BIRD! by Aug. 19	\$990 + \$49.50 = \$1,039.50
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<input type="radio"/> DAY 3 ONLY – Live Course (1095013)	September 18/VANCOUVER EARLY BIRD! by Aug. 19	\$565 + \$28.25 = \$593.25
<input type="radio"/> DAY 3 ONLY – Live Webinar (1895013)	September 18/ONLINE	\$565 + \$28.25 = \$593.25
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GRAND
TOTAL

CLEBC REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Course fee is refundable (less \$50) **if notice is received 5 business days (10 business days for Limited Enrolment courses) before the course.** CLEBC reserves the right to cancel or reschedule courses, refuse admission, or change prices, speakers, location, or content. Books in new condition are returnable within **30 days** of invoice date. GST# 122056716 RT

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