

# Association of Family and Conciliation Courts



## **Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations**

*The Anatomy of a Child  
Custody Evaluation*

September 25-27, 2008

## **Eighth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs**

September 26-27, 2008



**Albuquerque, New Mexico**  
**Albuquerque Marriott, Louisiana Blvd.**  
\$122 single/double

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

# ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS

## Albuquerque, New Mexico

These programs are only offered in alternate years. Don't miss out!

### Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2008

#### Anatomy of a Child Custody Evaluation

There are seemingly an infinite number of pieces that make up the puzzle of the child custody evaluation and there is not necessarily agreement as to what makes the most effective process. Furthermore, variations on the process—due to case characteristics, institutional constraints or financial considerations—may have significant implications for evaluators, judges, lawyers and all family members.

Participants in this Symposium will have the opportunity to examine the many components of the evaluation process, from drafting the initial order to the controversial and rapidly growing practice of consulting.

- *Choose from 24 Symposium workshops*
- *NEW! Consultation track including coaching, reviews and ethical considerations*
- *Pre-conference institutes for in-depth learning*
- *More than 25 new presenters and new topics!*

### Eighth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs

SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2008

This Congress is an opportunity for parent educators from around the world to network, share ideas and consider how to include the latest research and information in their programs. Leaders in parent education will explore how to expand your practice, new ways of teaching, and learning about the impact of your program on parents.

- *The latest thinking on Domestic Violence and Differentiation: Implications for Parent Education*
- *Educating parents online*
- *Show and Tell: Bring your own program information and materials to share!*
- *Research-based programs*

## Join AFCC Today

AFCC is the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, an interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict. AFCC members include judges, lawyers, mediators, psychologists, custody evaluators, parenting coordinators, social workers, parent educators, researchers and others.

#### AFCC Member Benefits Include:

- **Family Court Review:** Quarterly print and electronic subscription to AFCC's academic and research journal with online access to all the archives dating back to 1963.
- **AFCC Newsletters:** AFCC's print and electronic newsletters feature practice tips, research updates and interviews with leading practitioners.
- **Online Member Directory:** An international network of more than 3,500 family court professionals.

- **Free Online Conference Audio:** Online access to AFCC plenary sessions in MP3 format.
- **Member Discounts:** Members receive discounts on AFCC conferences and trainings, 15% discount on AFCC publications, 20% discount on publications from Blackwell Publishing, 25% discount with J.M. Craig Press and insurance discounts through Complete Equity Markets.

#### Reduced Registration Rates for AFCC Members

Join AFCC when you register and receive a one-year membership for only \$140—a \$10 discount—and register at the AFCC member rate. Check the "New Membership Special" box when completing the registration form and register at the AFCC member rate. You may also register and join online at [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org).

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Albuquerque Marriott • Albuquerque, New Mexico

## Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

*Full program begins on page 2*

### Wednesday, September 24, 2008

6:00pm-8:00pm Registration

### Thursday, September 25, 2008

7:45am-7:00pm Registration  
7:45am-5:00pm Exhibitor Forum  
7:45am-9:00am Coffee and Rolls  
9:00am-4:30pm Pre-Symposium Institutes  
12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch (on your own)  
7:00pm-8:30pm Opening Session  
8:30pm-9:30pm Welcome Reception  
9:30pm-12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

### Friday, September 26, 2008

7:30am-5:00pm Registration  
7:30am-5:00pm Exhibitor Forum  
7:30am-8:30am Coffee and Rolls  
8:30am-10:00am General Session  
10:00am-10:30am Break and Exhibitor Forum  
10:30am-12:00pm Workshops 1-6  
12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch (included)  
1:45pm-3:15pm Workshops 7-12  
3:15pm-3:30pm Break and Exhibitor Forum  
3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 13-18  
5:00pm Focused Evaluation Task Force  
Open Forum  
Evening Taste of Albuquerque  
9:00pm-12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

### Saturday, September 27, 2008

7:30am-12:00pm Registration  
7:30am-12:00pm Exhibitor Forum  
7:30am-8:30am Coffee and Rolls  
8:30am-10:00am Workshops 19-24  
10:00am-10:30am Break and Exhibitor Forum  
10:30am-12:00pm Closing Session

## Eighth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs

*Full program begins on page 8*

### Friday, September 26, 2008

7:30am-5:00pm Registration  
7:30am-5:00pm Exhibitor Forum  
7:30am-8:30am Coffee and Rolls  
8:30am-10:00am Opening Session  
10:00am-10:30am Break and Exhibitor Forum  
10:30am-12:00pm Workshops 1-2  
12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch (included)  
1:45pm-3:15pm Workshops 3-4  
3:15pm-3:30pm Break and Exhibitor Forum  
3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 5-6  
5:00pm Show and Tell  
Evening Taste of Albuquerque  
9:00pm-12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

### Saturday, September 27, 2008

7:30am-12:00pm Registration  
7:30am-12:00pm Exhibitor Forum  
7:30am-8:30am Coffee and Rolls  
8:30am-10:00am Workshops 7-8  
10:00am-10:30am Break and Exhibitor Forum  
10:30am-12:00pm Closing Session



# Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## PRE-SYMPOSIUM INSTITUTES

Separate registration required for institutes.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2008**

**9:00am-4:30pm**

### 1. Custody Evaluations: The Essentials

This full-day institute will address the fundamentals of conducting child custody evaluations. Participants will learn how to prepare to conduct evaluations and will be provided with an extensive review of evaluation methodology, including interviewing skills, using collateral sources, report writing and interpreting test data. This institute is ideal for those beginning an evaluation practice or those interested in brushing up on the core skills.

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

### 2. Advanced Issues in Psychological Testing

The selection and use of psychological tests and measures for child custody evaluations requires an understanding of their psychometric properties and relevance. The interpretation of psychological test data in these evaluations requires specialized knowledge of a parent's unique motivations and other context-driven behaviors that may affect test results. Back by popular demand, this institute will focus on selection, administration, scoring, interpretation and integration of test data within the overall assessment process. Emphasis will be placed on choosing tests that conform to legal standards of admissibility, understanding how a parent's response style affects the confidence and certainty that can be placed in interpretations of the test data, and the use of context-specific normative data in custody evaluations.

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

***"The conference challenged me to constantly push myself to be a better custody evaluator and helped provide me with the tools to do that."***

**Laura Kagan, Ph.D., Albany, New York**

### 3. Domestic Violence and Custody Evaluations: Implications for Parents, Children and Custody Disputes

The prevalence of domestic violence in child custody disputes demands that evaluators possess a thorough understanding of its dynamics and impact on family members, especially children. This institute will help participants understand critical issues including: (1) the most recent thinking on domestic violence and differentiation; (2) research on the impact of domestic violence on children of separation and divorce; (3) how to incorporate domestic violence issues into a custody and access assessment; and (4) parenting plans when domestic violence exists.

*Debbie Chiodo, M.A., M.Ed., CAMH Centre for Prevention Science, London, ON*

*Alfred Mamo, LL.B., Alfred Mamo and Associates, London, ON*

*Lorraine Martin, M.S.W., Clinical Coordinator of Social Work, Office of the Children's Lawyer, Toronto, ON*

*Mindy Mitnick, M.Ed., Licensed Psychologist, Edina, MN*

### 4. Parenting Coordination: Innovations, Advanced Concepts, Practice and Program Development

This advanced institute will offer participants hands-on opportunities to apply PC skills and techniques to innovative processes that broaden their practice. Learn to apply a conceptual model of parallel coparenting that disengages high conflict parents to provide a foundation for this alternative dispute resolution process. A practical set of procedures for intake, assessment and case management, as well as strategies to facilitate agreements and arbitrate disputes between coparents, will also be presented. Discuss the challenges of working with the court and ethical dilemmas that test the limits of PCs. Resource materials, such as sample appointment orders and detailed parenting plans, will be provided. Bring your tough cases to share!

*Matthew Sullivan, Ph.D., Palo Alto, CA*

*Linda Fieldstone, M.Ed., Family Court Services, Miami, Florida*

# Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

7:45am-7:00pm	Registration
7:45am-5:00pm	Exhibitor Forum
7:45am-9:00am	Coffee and Rolls
9:00am-4:30pm	Pre-Symposium Institutes
7:00pm-8:30pm	Opening Session

### Deconstructing the Evaluation Process: What Exactly Are we Doing?

Mental health professionals and others have examined the lives of litigants and children in custody and access disputes through many processes, including, but not limited to, evaluation, assessment, investigation and home study. Are these procedures interchangeable or do they suggest specific differences in processes that have implications with respect to practice, qualifications and/or conclusions? What are the critical defining characteristics of an evaluation and what, if any, processes are optional? What role do the judge and lawyers play in determining the process? This session will examine the not so simple process of defining the process.

*Linda Cavallero, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Department of Psychiatry, Worcester, MA*

*Michael Gottlieb, Ph.D., Dallas, TX*

*Hon. Nan Nash, Albuquerque, NM*

*Moderator: Hon. R. John Harper, London, ON*

8:30pm-9:30pm	Welcome Reception
9:30pm-12:00am	AFCC Hospitality Suite

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

7:30am-5:00pm	Registration
7:30am-5:00pm	Exhibitor Forum
7:30am-8:30am	Coffee and Rolls
8:30am-10:00am	General Session

### The Pieces of the Evaluation Puzzle: Do They Always Fit?

This session will examine some of the more controversial components of the evaluation process and explore whether and how they fit together. Are home studies an important piece of the puzzle? What about psychological testing? Where do joint parental interviews fit into the picture? What about processes that standardize a settlement facilitation component? Are these all essential, necessary, appropriate and ethical parts of the process? Join this panel for a lively discussion.

*Linda Cavallero, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Department of Psychiatry, Worcester, MA*

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

*Hon. Deborah Davis Walker, Presiding Family Court Judge, Albuquerque, NM*

*Moderator: Hon. R. John Harper, London, ON*

10:00am-10:30am	Break and Exhibitor Forum
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## 10:30am-12:00pm Workshops 1-6

### 1. Assessing Children's Perceptions of Family Relationships

A major challenge in conducting child custody evaluations is how to assess children's feelings and thoughts about their divorced parents and other family members in a reliable, valid and useful way. Previous authors have focused on improving questioning techniques. This workshop focuses on a nonverbal and verbal interactive interview instrument, which engages children aged four to twelve. The 80-item instrument systematically elicits positive and negative feelings and perceptions of (1) Closeness and security, (2) Parenting behavior, (3) "Red flag" behaviors, and (4) Co-parenting behavior, with multiple family members. The instrument allows follow-up probes. New data will be presented on reliability and validity with illustrative case studies.

*Angus Strachan, Ph.D., Santa Monica, CA*

*Mary Elizabeth Lund, Ph.D., Santa Monica, CA*

### 2. Mental Health Consultation in Child Custody Cases

As custody disputes become more complex, attorneys more frequently collaborate with mental health professionals to assist their clients. While considerable attention has been devoted to the role of the consultant to prepare a parent for a child custody evaluation, mental health consultation may be effectively used at various stages of the child custody process. This advanced-level workshop focuses on the effective use of mental health consultants before, during and after custody litigation. Presenters will address relevant ethical dilemmas/demands and provide practical strategies for effective interprofessional collaboration, to assist distressed parents in working toward solutions that advance the best interests of their children.

*Mary Catherine Bohlen, J.D., Los Angeles, CA*

*Lyn R. Greenberg, Ph.D., Los Angeles, CA*

*Matthew Sullivan, Ph.D., Palo Alto, CA*

### 3. Reducing Bias in Child Custody Evaluations: Issues and Controversies

Among the most serious challenges to child custody evaluators is guarding against bias. Workshop leaders will identify the ways in which various biases decrease evaluator objectivity, creating the risk of distorted analysis of our data and flawed recommendations to the court. Topics include cognitive, attitudinal and cultural biases. Also discussed will be biases stemming from countertransference that may arise from evaluators' personal reactions to clients, based upon their past or present experiences in relationships. Suggestions for reducing bias will be offered.

*David Martindale, Ph.D., ABPP, St. Petersburg, FL*

*Daniel Pickar, Ph.D., ABPP, Santa Rosa, CA*

# Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## 4. Revisiting Custody through Relocation: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Relocation matters may be the most contentious and challenging of all custody disputes for litigants and professionals alike. What are the factors the court is looking for to make a determination in these cases? Can children's best interests really be determined? This workshop will use a case study approach to examine what judges want from lawyers and custody evaluators when addressing the challenges of a relocation dispute.

*Dianna Gould-Saltman, J.D., Gould-Saltman Law Offices, Los Angeles, CA*

*Philip M. Stahl, Ph.D., ABPP, Queen Creek, AZ*

*Hon. Hope Schwartz Zimmerman, Mineola, NY*

*Hon. Elaine J. Stack (ret.), Hofstra University School of Law, Hempstead, NY*

## 5. Working with Latinos: Appreciating Skills Already Possessed and Developing Cultural Sensitivity

According to Census Bureau projections, by the year 2050 nearly 25% of the United States population will be Hispanic. The Courts have found that culture is a relevant factor to be considered in "best interest of the child." Consequently, maximizing professionals' Latino cultural awareness is essential. Through examining similarities and differences of various cultural factors, cultural awareness is increased. However, skills necessary to be culturally sensitive are already engrained in the clinical professional as well as other professionals.

*Sam Roll, Ph.D., Co-author, The Invisible Border, Albuquerque, NM*

*Emily Ederer, M.A., LMFT, Family Court Clinic, Albuquerque, NM*

*Mercedes Reisinger-Marshall, Ph.D., Family Court Clinic, Albuquerque, NM*

## 6. Identifying and Working with Severely Disturbed Parents in Child Custody Litigation

This presentation will address how the collaboration of attorney, custody evaluator and child psychotherapist can help high-conflict, characterologically disturbed parents to appropriately utilize the divorce-custody framework. The presentation will demonstrate how to structure the evaluation, make recommendations and coordinate professional services to effect change in the family system, and provide for the best interests of the child. Using as a template an actual case involving the international abduction of a child by his estranged father, the process of working as a team will follow intake, assessment and treatment structure as well as parameters that were set in place to contain the parents' psychopathology, and foster the safety, growth and development of the child.

*Renee Summers, M.S.W., Evanston, IL*

*Jonathan Nye, J.D., Chicago, IL*

*Kerry Smith, Ph.D., Chicago, IL*

**12:00pm-1:30pm**

**Lunch (included)**

**1:45pm-3:15pm**

**Workshops 7-12**

## 7. Domestic Violence and Differentiation: Challenges for Custody Evaluators

Custody evaluators require a thorough knowledge of the dynamics of domestic violence but this is not as simple as it sounds. There is increasingly widespread recognition that domestic violence is not a one-size-fits-all phenomenon and acknowledgement that differentiating domestic violence is an extraordinarily complex task with potentially severe consequences. What are the challenges in identifying parenting plans that put safety first without excessive restrictions that may have long term consequences? How can the complexities of differentiating violence in intimate partner relationships be managed without valid and reliable screening instruments? Join this workshop to discuss these challenges.

*Robin Deutsch, Ph.D., AFCC President, Boston, MA*

*Arnold Shienbold, Ph.D., Riegler, Shienbold & Associates, Harrisburg, PA*

## 8. Evaluating Evaluations: Doing Reviews and Being Reviewed

This program will explore the increasingly common practice of reviewing custody evaluations. Presenters will discuss how evaluators, even while conducting a custody evaluation, can prepare for discovery and review and how they can make this process more effective. Participants will learn how a reviewer properly goes about his/her work, the role of quality review work in effective child custody litigation, ethical aspects of review work and how evaluators can effectively respond when being reviewed. An overview of the litigation/testimony elements of conducting review work will be provided.

*Leslie Drozd, Ph.D., Editor, Journal of Child Custody, Newport Beach, CA*

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

## 9. Using Early Intervention as a Roadmap to Success

Complexity of cases and ever increasing referrals has led the Second District Family Court Clinic in New Mexico to develop an innovative early triage procedure. Court Clinic mental health professionals provide an early triage service that identifies the needs of the family and informs the court regarding the family's situation. This procedure moves families towards resolution while decreasing conflict levels and time spent in Court. Other statutorily-defined Court Clinic services that reduce costs for families and the Court will be presented.

*Hon. Elizabeth Whitefield, Albuquerque, NM*

*Terry Ashcom, MA, LPC, Family Court Clinic, Albuquerque, NM*

*Beth Roth, Ph.D., Family Court Clinic, Albuquerque, NM*

*Mercedes Reisinger-Marshall, Ph.D., Family Court Clinic, Albuquerque, NM*

# Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## 10. Attachment Theory and Research: An Update with Implications for Child Custody Evaluation

Empirical research into attachment theory has often failed to substantiate its tenets. Attachment status early in life has not consistently proved stable over time, nor has it well predicted behavioral outcomes later in life. There have been exceptions, notably disorganized attachment, which tends to predict a poorer outcome. New research, however, has begun to emerge that supports a view of attachment that looks beyond the parent-child dyad in evaluating outcome, and moves beyond infancy as the only reference point for prediction. Solid, often replicated studies of the outcomes of secure attachment have become available and will be described. Implications for child custody evaluation will be discussed.

*Pamela S. Ludolph, Ph.D., Ann Arbor, MI*

## 11. Social Capital and Integrated Approach to Child Custody Evaluation: Application to Relocation Cases

This workshop presents the resource availability perspective on child custody evaluations, an alternative that is compatible to the traditional best interests of the child approach. This framework can help the court visualize what life will be like for the child in the alternative custodial possibilities. Presenters will examine the theoretical basis for this approach, explore statutory and case law factors in terms of resource availability as sources of social capital, and demonstrate how to apply a social capital analysis to the issue of gatekeeping and relocation cases.

*William G. Austin, Ph.D., Steamboat Springs, CO*

*Jonathan W. Gould, Ph.D., ABPP, Co-author, The Art and Science of Child Custody Evaluations, Charlotte, NC*

## 12. Domestic Violence Treatment in a Collaborative Program

This workshop introduces the methods and interventions of the Family Assessment and Intervention Resources (FAIR) program and the underlying research-based rationale. FAIR is a domestic violence family intervention and prevention program. It is an unusual, perhaps unique, collaborative effort between the court and a research university. FAIR provides confidential treatment for mothers and fathers who have come to the attention of the Court because of domestic violence incidents and who are assessed to be treatable with a brief (12-week) intervention. Assessment, referral and treatment methods and the issues of treatment within a court-based system will be presented and discussed.

*Kathleen Clapp, Ph.D., Director, Family Assessment and Intervention Resources, Albuquerque, NM*

*Timothy Reed, M.S.W., Court Clinician, Family Assessment and Intervention Resources, Albuquerque, NM*

*Melissa Gerstle, M.S., FAIR Clinician, Doctoral candidate, Department of Psychology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM*

*Alisha Wray, M.S., FAIR Clinician, Doctoral candidate, Department of Psychology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM*

**3:15pm-3:30pm Break and Exhibitor Forum**

**3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 13-18**

## 13. Negotiating the Boundaries: Creating a Team in the High Conflict Divorce

This workshop examines the ethical and legal obligations of professionals involved in a high conflict divorce. The presenters will provide practical tips to bridge professional gaps and create an effective team approach to high conflict divorces, while respecting the different tasks and roles assigned to multiple players. The presenters will also share their hot tips on what works when dealing with highly conflicted couples.

*Barbara Wasylenki, M.S.W., Samaritan Counseling Center, Albuquerque, NM*

*Martha Kaser, J.D., LMSW, Samaritan Counseling Center, Albuquerque, NM*

## 14. Testimonial and Non-Testimonial Roles in Child Custody Cases

Experienced child custody evaluators often are invited to consult on cases in a variety of roles. The role and function of the testimonial expert is often different from the role of the non-testimonial expert. This workshop will examine differences between the role of testimonial expert and non-testimonial expert when hired by one side in child custody cases.

*Jonathan W. Gould, Ph.D., ABPP, Co-author, The Art and Science of Child Custody Evaluations, Charlotte, NC*

*Timothy Tippins, J.D., Albany, NY*

*Jeffrey Wittmann, Ph.D., Author, Custody Chaos, Personal Peace, Albany, NY*

## 15. Drafting Orders for Custody Evaluations: A Multidisciplinary Approach

This workshop will address many issues related to drafting Orders for child custody evaluations, with an emphasis on how various disciplines—including the judge, lawyer, *guardian ad litem* and evaluator—can interface in the drafting of Orders. The participants in this workshop will gain an understanding of the elements needed in an Order to lead to the best possible evaluation. Sample Orders will be examined to illustrate the variables to be considered. Thought provoking questions will help the participant think broadly about the topic.

*Barrie Alexander, Ph.D., Atlanta, GA*

*Daniel Bloom, Esq., Atlanta, GA*

*Nancy McGarrah, Ph.D., Atlanta, GA*

# Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## 16. Developing and Managing a Child Custody Practice

This presentation will review the results of a national survey on developing and managing a child custody practice. A variety of areas will be covered, including the reasons survey participants chose to enter this specialty area, preparatory steps and training taken prior to offering services as evaluators, referral sources and changes in participants' practices with regard to amount of clinical work as compared with forensic work. In addition, the degree of satisfaction in conducting such evaluations and the level of stress experienced will be discussed. Finally, the prevalence of board and ethics complaints and malpractice suits will be reviewed. Implications for practice will be highlighted.

*James N. Bow, Ph.D., ABPP, Hawthorn Center, Northville, MI*

## 17. Identifying and Addressing Substance Abuse

Assessment of drug and alcohol use is a critical factor in child custody evaluations. Presenters will discuss parental substance abuse disorders, treatment options, recovery process, placement recommendation and the development of sound parenting plans. Strategies for monitoring abstinence in the context of visitation or access will also be presented.

*Howard Carroll, M.Ed., Salmon, ID*

*Claude Schleuderer, Ph.D., Kingston, NY*

## 18. The Role of Settlement Meetings in Custody Evaluations

A large number of high conflict cases continue to clog the court docket. Judicial orders regarding custody rarely result in satisfied parties or reduced conflict. In fact, litigation often increases the parents' polarization and escalates the hostility they exhibit towards each other. As a counterpoint, parents arriving at their own solutions tend to be more satisfied and are likely to have less difficulty following their plan. This workshop will explore how settlement meetings can help parents with high conflict reach agreement on custody issues.

*Carol Herrera, Family Court Services, Santa Fe, NM*

*Maria Breheny, Family Court Services, Santa Fe, NM*

*Gary Lombardo, Family Court Services, Santa Fe, NM*

**5:00pm** **Focused Evaluation Task Force  
Open Forum**

**Evening** **Taste of Albuquerque**

**9:00pm-12:00am** **AFCC Hospitality Suite**

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

**7:30am-12:00pm** **Registration**

**7:30am-12:00pm** **Exhibitor Forum**

**7:30am-8:30am** **Coffee and Rolls**

**8:30am-10:00am** **Workshops 19-24**

## 19. Saving the Baby and Preserving the Father-Child Relationship in Divorce

Controversy over infant parenting plans with fathers has centered on the conflict between the infant's developmental needs and the father's need to develop an early bond with the child that will increase his long term involvement and attachment to the infant. This workshop will explore the outcomes of the Minnesota Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, recent neurobiological research on right brain development in the infant and current studies regarding the most effective strategies to keep both parents involved in the life of a child. A model will be presented for determining how the infant's developmental needs can be balanced with the father's need to become bonded with the infant in the early years, even if the parents are not together. A program for developmentally sound parenting schedules for infants will be discussed with an emphasis on teaching parents to work together to address the infant's development in the first two years of life in order to facilitate both parent's involvement in the child's life. The impact of early development on ADHD, depression, and anxiety will also be explored.

*Jane K. McNaught, Ph.D., Edina, MN*

## 20. Ethical Considerations in Expert Reviews

Attorneys are more frequently asking for experienced custody evaluators to review and critique their colleagues' work and render additional opinions of evaluations performed by court-appointed neutral evaluators. There are few, if any, standards of practice in this area and these situations can push the limits of professional roles. From the viewpoints of two custody evaluators, a family law attorney and a family law commissioner, this session explores the inherently complex set of issues present in such situations. In the process, this panel will address legal, ethical and clinical matters in an effort to define ways in which evaluation reviews can offer input that focuses on the best interests of the child and assists the court in situations rife with conflict and disagreement.

*Robert Kaufman, Ph.D., ABPP, Oakland, CA*

*S. Margaret Lee, Ph.D., Mill Valley, CA*

*Lorie Nachlis, J.D., Nachlis & Fink, San Francisco, CA*

*Hon. Marjorie Slabach, Superior Court Commissioner, San Francisco, CA*



# Eighth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

<b>7:30am-5:00pm</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>7:30am-5:00pm</b>	<b>Exhibitor Forum</b>
<b>7:30am-8:30am</b>	<b>Coffee and Rolls</b>
<b>8:30am-10:00am</b>	<b>Opening Session</b>

*Welcome: Robert M. Smith, J.D., AFCC Vice President, Windsor, CO*

### Domestic Violence and Differentiation: The Impact on Parent Education Programs

There has been recognition by many professionals, researchers and members of the domestic violence advocacy community that intimate partner violence is not a one size fits all phenomenon. But accurately recognizing patterns of violence and identifying types is a complex and potentially dangerous process. What are the implications on parent education programs if all domestic violence is not the same? How can programs deliver information that is accurate and helps to ensure safe and healthy families? This session will examine differentiation of domestic violence, the work of the AFCC and National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Domestic Violence and Family Courts Project, and the impact on educational programs for separating and divorcing parents.

*Nancy Ver Steegh, J.D., M.S.W., William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, MN*

*Cori Erickson, M.S., CEO, Wyoming Children's Access Network, Sheridan, WY*

*Arnold Swartz, LCSW, Lakewood, CO*

*Moderator: Robert M. Smith, J.D., AFCC Vice President, Windsor, CO*

**10:00am-10:30am**      **Break and Exhibitor Forum**

**10:30am-12:00pm**      **Workshops 1-2**

### 1. Parent Education as Part of a Thriving Practice

Jurisdictions vary in their requirements for co-parenting education and in how they make classes available. Some districts fund their own services, but others rely on local professionals to develop effective programs. This workshop will illustrate how a creative individual trained first in psychotherapy can build a gratifying practice by adding divorce education as one specialty service. Even when a court selects or certifies multiple providers, a diligent professional can achieve a successful practice by offering parent education as well as psychotherapy, evaluation, mediation and other services.

*Shirley Thomas, Ph.D., Longmont, CO*

### 2. From Lecture to Life

Empowerment, self-awareness, resilience, optimism and hope are not words usually associated with Divorce Education. Kids' Turn now teaches life skills that participants can take with them into their reorganized families and lives. Kids' Turn, together with consultants *6 Seconds Emotional Intelligence International Trainers*, have created a curriculum that focuses on families undergoing reorganization, for a better future. From didactic to interactive teaching, they have added humor based on current educational research on how participants learn and retain information.

*Steve Kinney, M.A., President, Kids' Turn, San Jose, CA*

*Elyse Jacobs, MFA, Program Director, Kids' Turn, San Francisco, CA*

**12:00pm-1:30pm**      **Lunch (included)**

**1:45pm-3:15pm**      **Workshops 3-4**

### 3. Teaching Parents to Parent: A Solution-Focused Approach

Children of divorce typically are stressed and destabilized, while their parents are also distracted and upset. The behavior of these children frequently is out of control and their parents have little energy and no idea how to deal with it. In this seminar mental health professionals are taught how to teach parents to become effective "managers" of their children's behavior while parents, themselves, learn how to become better parents.

*Larry Waldman, Ph.D., ABPP, Phoenix, AZ*

### 4. Working with Latino Parents

Most educational techniques work well with persons from all cultures. However, knowledge of the dominant themes in the culture of those we are teaching further enhances the effectiveness of our techniques. This workshop explores similarities and differences in Anglo and Latino cultures with a special focus on interpersonal styles, family orientation, conceptualization of teacher-learner relationship and gender. The central cross-cultural meanings of the concepts of authority, *personalisimo*, and respect will be explored as will the place of guilt and shame in the learning process.

*Sam Roll, Ph.D., Author, The Invisible Border, Albuquerque, NM*

**3:15-3:30pm**      **Break and Exhibitor Forum**

**The Symposium and Congress are separate conferences; however, in order to maximize networking opportunities, attendees will meet together for the Friday Luncheon and share access to refreshment breaks, Exhibitor Forum and AFCC Hospitality Suite. Participants are asked to attend only sessions of the conference for which they have registered.**

# Eighth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs

**3:30pm-5:00pm**

**Workshops 5-6**

## **5. Cooperative Co-parenting vs. Parallel Parenting**

While cooperative co-parenting is often held up as the ideal, it may not be effective for parents in high conflict, those with personality disorders or when domestic violence has occurred. Parallel parenting is often effective for those who want to do the best job of parenting their children while minimizing communication and conflict. This workshop will examine the key distinctions between co-parenting and parallel parenting and will help participants understand how to help parents understand their conflict and utilize the post-divorce parenting strategies most suited to their family.

*Philip M. Stahl, Ph.D., Author, Parenting After Divorce, Queen Creek, AZ*

## **6. Creatively Advancing Parent Education with Federal Access & Visitation Grant Funds: The Colorado Experience**

Panelists will describe the U.S. Federal Access & Visitation (AV) Grant program, as well as provide pertinent research on the effectiveness of Parent Education programs funded by the AV grant. This workshop will include representatives from Colorado who will discuss the use of AV grant funds in Colorado with a particular emphasis on introducing parent education into rural and/or underserved districts. The workshop will focus on one rural community's experience in implementing their parenting education program, including its formation; parent education volunteer training; and the development of parenting education curriculum developed with the AV grant funds.

*Tracie L. Pogue, MDiv., MSW, Access & Visitation Grant Manager, HHS/ACF – Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, Washington, DC*

*Sharon Daly, J.D., Projects Manager, Office of Dispute Resolution, State Court Administrator's Office, Colorado Judicial Branch, Denver, CO*

*Cindie Farmer, B.A., Family Court Facilitator-Domestic/Juvenile, 15th Judicial District, Prowers District Court, Lamar, CO*

*Robert M. Smith, J.D., Windsor, CO*

**5:00pm**

**Show and Tell**

Join your colleagues in an informal setting to share information about your program, learn about others, have a drink and share your stories.

**Evening**

**Taste of Albuquerque**

**9:00pm-12:00am**

**AFCC Hospitality Suite**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2008**

**7:30am-12:00pm**

**Registration**

**7:30am-12:00pm**

**Exhibitor Forum**

**7:30am-8:30am**

**Coffee and Rolls**

**8:30am-10:00am**

**Workshops 7-8**

## **7. Research for Rookies**

This workshop is for those who have been a little too busy, ambivalent, or avoidant to conduct research on their program. It will be a report on one divorce educator's journey into the world of empirical evidence. Participants can expect a wealth of information on past research models, outcomes measures, instrumentation, statistical designs, funding resources, discovering local academic resources and much more.

*Chet Muklewicz, Ed.D., Kids First, Dunmore, PA*

## **8. Integrating the Internet into On-site Divorce Education**

This workshop will offer practical and specific steps for updating and enlarging the reach of both new and existing on-site divorce education programs with a sampling of useful internet resources. Emphasis will be placed on (a) integrating online 'homework' with in-class learning, (b) steps for setting up or improving a program's Web site for purposes of marketing and more efficient interfacing with clients, and (c) networking with other parent educators.

*P. Leslie Herold, Ph.D., Solutions for Families, San Bernardino, CA*

*Donald Gordon, Ph.D., Center for Divorce Education, Ashland, OR*

**10:00am-10:30pm**

**Break and Exhibitor Forum**

**10:30am-12:00pm**

**Closing Session**

## **Stripped Down or Fully Loaded: Can Courts Deliver Parenting Programs that Change the Impact of Divorce on Children?**

There is growing evidence from rigorous evaluation studies that some parenting programs can have long term effects to substantially improve mental health, substance use and positive adjustment outcomes for children following divorce. The question posed in this presentation is whether one such program can be tailored for delivery through the family courts. The presentation will briefly describe the New Beginnings Program and describe its effects. Then challenges in delivering the program through the courts will be discussed. Finally an approach for delivery of the program will be described, which involves a partnership between the courts, community agencies and divorcing parents themselves. Findings concerning court perspectives, parent responses and community provider responses will be presented.

*Irwin Sandler, Ph.D., Prevention Research Center, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ*

*Sarah Jones, Ph.D., Prevention Research Center, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ*



# Don't Miss AFCC in New Orleans!

## AFCC 46th Annual Conference

May 27-30, 2009

Sheraton New Orleans

*Steps from the French Quarter*

More than 1,000 leaders attended last year's record-setting Annual Conference. Make plans now to develop your practice skills at the premiere interdisciplinary family law, mental health and dispute resolution conference.

**The Call for Presenters will be posted this summer on the AFCC Web site at [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org)**



## Save the Dates!

### AFCC Conferences

#### AFCC 46th Annual Conference

May 27-30, 2009  
Sheraton New Orleans  
New Orleans, Louisiana

#### AFCC 47th Annual Conference

June 2-5, 2010  
Sheraton Denver  
Denver, Colorado

#### AFCC 48th Annual Conference

June 1-4, 2011  
Hilton/Waldorf=Astoria Bonnet Creek  
Orlando, Florida

### AFCC Training Programs

#### Parenting Coordination

Presenter: Matthew Sullivan, Ph.D.  
October 23-24, 2008  
Kansas City, Missouri

#### Parenting Coordination

Presenter: Christine Coates, J.D.  
December 8-9, 2008  
Baltimore, Maryland

#### Father Involvement

Presenter: Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D.  
December 10-11, 2008  
Baltimore, Maryland

### Parenting Coordination

Presenter: Robin Deutsch, Ph.D.  
Loyola University New Orleans  
College of Law  
February 9-10, 2009

### Advanced Issues in Child Custody

Presenter: Arnie Shienvold, Ph.D.  
Loyola University New Orleans  
College of Law  
February 11-12, 2009

**[www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org)**

## Continuing Education Credits

AFCC will provide a certificate of conference attendance for a processing fee of \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. The certificate will verify attendance at conference sessions and may be used to apply for continuing education credits with the registrant's accrediting institution.

**Psychologists:** AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC maintains responsibility for the program and its content. Psychologists who wish to receive continuing education credits must register for the certificate of attendance and sign in and out in the back of the session room.

**Lawyers:** Application is being made through the New Mexico State Bar for continuing legal education credits.

**Mental Health Professionals:** Continuing education approval from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is pending; however, individuals will need to verify approval with their credentialing or licensing boards.

**New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice:** Conference sessions approved for continuing education by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) will be acceptable for continuing education required by the New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board.

**Custody Evaluators:** California custody evaluators may satisfy part of the 8 hours of annual continuing education required under California Rules of Court, rule 5.225. The views expressed in the program are those of the faculty and do not necessarily represent the official positions or policies of the Judicial Council of CA or the Administrative Office of the Courts.

## Of Special Note

### Audio Recordings

Conference sessions will be recorded and audio CDs and MP3 downloads of the sessions will be available at the conference and may be ordered online at [www.dcporder.com/afcc](http://www.dcporder.com/afcc) after the conference concludes. No personal audio-recording of sessions is permitted.

### Exhibitor Forum

The Exhibitor Forum will be open during conference hours. AFCC publications will be available for purchase at the AFCC membership and publication table. If you are interested in renting exhibit space or

distributing materials to conference attendees, please contact Dawn Holmes at (608) 664-3750 or email [afcc@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc@afccnet.org).

### Conference Bookstore

Bookworks will be AFCC's official bookseller at the conference. If you wish to display a book for sale or sell your books on consignment, please contact Danielle Tribble at [accounts@bkwrks.com](mailto:accounts@bkwrks.com) and mention AFCC bookstore in the subject line.

### Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships will be awarded for the Symposium and Congress. Scholarships include registration fees for the conference. Scholarships for the Symposium will also include registration fees for a full-day pre-symposium institute. Scholarship recipients are responsible for funding their own travel, lodging, meals and related expenses. Scholarship applications are available on the conference page of the AFCC Web site at [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org). For more information, please call AFCC at (608) 664-3750.

### AFCC Hospitality Suite

AFCC's Hospitality Suite will be open in the evening for informal networking and refreshment. The Hospitality Suite is a great place to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Please wear your name badge. The Hospitality Suite location will be posted at the AFCC registration desk.

### Taste of Albuquerque

Sign up on site and join a group of 8-10 for dinner at a local restaurant. Friday evening will be your opportunity to dine with friends and colleagues. Restaurant descriptions and sign up sheets will be available in the conference registration area. Participants are responsible for food, beverage and transportation costs.

### Special Needs

If you have special meal requests or other special needs, please note this on the registration form.

### Room Sharing

If you are in search of a roommate, check the box on the registration form. Your name will be placed on a list that will be provided to others who request roommate information. Please be certain to note your gender on the form. Roommates are responsible for contacting one another and making hotel reservations.

# Registration Information

**New Member Special:** Join AFCC when you register for the conference and receive a twelve-month membership for \$140—a \$10 discount—and save even more by registering at the AFCC member rate! To join, simply circle the New Member Special rate on the conference registration form. The New Member Special is available only to first time AFCC members.

**Pre-Symposium Institute:** Includes attendance at one Pre-Symposium Institute, refreshment breaks and institute materials. *Pre-Symposium Institute registration is separate from the registration for the full conference.*

**Symposium and Congress Registration:** In order to maximize networking opportunities, registrants of these separate conferences will meet together for the Friday Luncheon and share access to refreshment breaks, Exhibitor Forum and AFCC Hospitality Suite. Participants are asked to attend only sessions of the conference for which they have registered.

**Symposium and Congress Presenter Registration:** Available only to conference presenters. Includes all conference sessions and materials, reception, luncheon and AFCC Hospitality Suite. *A separate registration fee is required for presenters who wish to attend Pre-Symposium Institutes.*

**Full-time Student Registration:** Includes admission to all conference sessions only. Meal functions are not included. *Separate registration is required for Pre-Symposium Institutes.* Registration must include proof of full-time student status.

**Certificate of Attendance:** AFCC will provide a certificate of total hours attended at the conference opening session, workshops and institutes for a minimal processing fee of \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. To sign up, simply circle Certificate of Attendance on the conference registration form.

# Travel and Lodging Information

## Hotel Information

Albuquerque Marriott  
2101 Louisiana Boulevard, NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

The Albuquerque Marriott is located on Louisiana Boulevard in the uptown business district, just five minutes from downtown Albuquerque and eight miles from the Albuquerque Airport (Albuquerque International Sunport). Located within walking distance are the Coronado Mall and Food Court and the ABQ Uptown Shopping and Restaurant Mall.

AFCC attendees are responsible for making their own lodging arrangements and will receive the special rate of **\$122 per night** for a single or double room. The AFCC block of rooms will be released to the public for general sale on September 1, 2008 and the hotel may be sold out before that date, so **please make your reservations early**. Call the Albuquerque Marriott for hotel reservations direct at (505) 881-6800 or call Marriott Reservations toll-free at (800) 334-2086. Reservations must be accompanied by a first-night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. Deposits are refundable if reservation is cancelled at least 72 hours prior to arrival.

## Airline Travel

The Albuquerque International Sunport (ABQ) is served by nine major commercial carriers: American, Continental, Delta, ExpressJet, Frontier, Northwest, Southwest, United and US Airways. Free wireless Internet access is available throughout the terminal. Burkhalter Travel, AFCC's preferred travel agency, is available to assist you with the best rates for your transportation needs. Contact Burkhalter Travel at (800) 688-0156 or (608) 255-2774 and ask for Dan or Kirk.

## Ground Transportation

Ground transportation from the airport and around Albuquerque and New Mexico is provided by numerous cab companies, door to door shuttles, buses, limousines and rental car companies. The Airport Shuttle and Sunport Shuttle provide transportation to the Albuquerque Marriott on Louisiana for \$14 per person each way. Taxicab fare from the airport to the Albuquerque Marriott on Louisiana is approximately \$28 one way. Car rental agencies at the airport are Advantage, Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Hertz, National and Thrifty. All are located at the airport's Car Rental Center, approximately ½ mile from the passenger terminal building.

## Parking

Onsite parking at the Albuquerque Marriott is complimentary.

## Climate

Average daytime temperatures in late September will be mid-70's to high-80's, dropping to lows of 50's-60's in the evening. Be sure to take a light jacket or sweater, as meeting rooms and restaurants will be air conditioned.

## Optional Santa Fe Tour

**12:30pm-5:30pm, Saturday, September 27**

Destination Southwest is offering a tour of Santa Fe on Saturday afternoon after the conferences conclude. The registration fee of \$52.00 per person includes roundtrip transportation to Santa Fe with a professional tour guide, time on your own in the historic Plaza or a guided walking tour, visiting St. Francis Cathedral, the Loretto Chapel and the San Miguel Mission. **A minimum of twenty registrations is required for the tour to take place, so please register early!** A full description and registration form is posted on AFCC's Web site at [www.afccnet.org/conferences/afcc\\_conferences.asp](http://www.afccnet.org/conferences/afcc_conferences.asp) or call Destination Southwest at (800) 999-3109 if you have questions.

# Registration Form

## Register online at [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org)

### Albuquerque Marriott • Louisiana Boulevard • Albuquerque, New Mexico

*Please register by August 22, 2008 to ensure that your name appears on the list of attendees in the conference materials.*

**Please type or print clearly.** This form may be duplicated.

First Name, (Dr./Mr./Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Information: First name or Nickname (As you would like it to appear on your name badge) \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Profession \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first AFCC Conference?  Yes  No I would like to be listed for a roommate:  Male  Female  Smoking  Non-Smoking

Do you have any special needs?  Meals  Access  Other Please provide details: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations**

September 25-27, 2008

Please circle appropriate amount(s) below, indicate choices, and total at the bottom

##### **New Member Special**

*Join AFCC for one year and register at the AFCC member rates below!*

<b>Paid by Aug. 31</b>	<b>Paid After Aug. 31</b>
\$140	\$140

##### **Pre-Symposium Institutes** (separate registration required)

Pre-Symposium Institute, AFCC Member

\$130	\$150
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Pre-Symposium Institute, Non-Member

\$155	\$175
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Please select one full-day institute below:

1. Custody Evaluations: The Essentials  
 2. Advanced Issues in Psychological Testing  
 3. Domestic Violence and Custody Evaluations  
 4. Parenting Coordination: Innovations...

##### **Symposium Registration**

AFCC Member

\$275	\$305
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Non-Member

\$325	\$360
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Symposium Conference Presenter

\$185	\$195
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Full-time Student (*I.D. required, meals not included*)

\$185	\$195
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Certificate of Attendance, AFCC Member

\$ 10	\$ 10
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Certificate of Attendance, Non-Member

\$ 15	\$ 15
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**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

##### **Workshop Selections** (Please write in one workshop number per session)

Workshop 1-6 _____	Workshop 13-18 _____
Workshop 7-12 _____	Workshop 19-24 _____

**You may register online at [www.afccnet.org](http://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  
 Email: [afcc@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc@afccnet.org)

#### **Eighth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs**

September 26-27, 2008

Please circle appropriate amount(s) below, indicate choices, and total at the bottom

##### **New Member Special**

*Join AFCC for one year and register at the AFCC member rates below!*

<b>Paid by Aug. 31</b>	<b>Paid After Aug. 31</b>
\$140	\$140

##### **Congress Registration**

AFCC Member

\$230	\$260
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Non-Member

\$280	\$315
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Congress Conference Presenter

\$155	\$165
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Full-time Student (*I.D. required, meals not included*)

\$155	\$165
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Certificate of Attendance, AFCC Member

\$ 10	\$ 10
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Certificate of Attendance, Non-Member

\$ 15	\$ 15
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**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

##### **Workshop Selections** (Please write in one workshop number per session)

Workshop 1-2 _____	Workshop 5-6 _____
Workshop 3-4 _____	Workshop 7-8 _____

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

##### **Method of Payment**

**Registrations must be paid in full prior to attendance.**

- Payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed (U.S. currency only please)  
 Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my  Visa  MasterCard  
 American Express  Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Order # (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**Cancellation Policy:** Transfer of registration to another person may be done 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 September 8, 2008 will be issued a full refund minus a \$60 service fee. Written notice received by fax or post-marked by September 8, 2008 will have the \$60 service fee deducted with the balance issued as a credit for future AFCC conferences, publications or membership dues. No refunds or credits will be issued for cancellations received after September 8, 2008.

# Association of Family and Conciliation Courts



## **Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations**

*The Anatomy of a Child Custody Evaluation*

September 25-27, 2008

## **Eighth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs**

September 26-27, 2008



**Albuquerque Marriott • Louisiana Boulevard • Albuquerque, New Mexico**

### **AFCC**

6525 Grand Teton Plaza  
Madison, WI 53719

### **Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations**

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**Albuquerque Marriott  
Albuquerque, New Mexico**