



ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY  
AND CONCILIATION COURTS

# AFCC's Online Training Program



## The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination

*A 16-hour online training program for professionals interested in parenting coordination.*

**December 1 - 4, 2025**

### Training Team

Debra K. Carter, PhD

Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP

Shely Polak, PhD, AccFM

Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD

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

# The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination

A 16-hour online training program for professionals interested in parenting coordination.

**December 1 - December 4, 2025**

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 (IPV); cultural considerations; ethical issues; and the use of technology.

Participants will learn 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 program will take place in two segments per day, two hours each. Recordings of all sessions will be available for registrants.

## Learning Objectives

Participants in this training will be able to:

- ◆ Define parenting coordination and identify at least three differences between parenting coordination and other conflict resolution processes.
- ◆ Describe the multiple roles and functions of the parenting coordinator.
- ◆ Identify the main elements of the professional services agreement/contract.
- ◆ List at least three phases of the parenting coordination process.
- ◆ Explain the impact of separation, divorce, and parental conflict on family dynamics and child well-being.
- ◆ Name the four models of coparenting and discuss how they impact children.
- ◆ List the steps for structuring the parenting coordination process.
- ◆ Discuss how to use outside experts and resources effectively and describe the PC roles and functions on the collaborative/support team.
- ◆ Apply two techniques for managing non-compliance, and two techniques for managing the impact of high conflict.
- ◆ Recognize when to decline an appointment and when to withdraw from a case.
- ◆ Identify when a parenting coordinator should move into the decision-making phase, and prepare and write those decisions.
- ◆ Apply procedures for initial and ongoing screening for IPV, and implement appropriate safety interventions and protocols.
- ◆ Analyze the interplay between AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Coordination, other ethical guidelines, and other professional practice guidelines.
- ◆ Explain the difference between explicit and implicit emotional, cognitive, and behavioral biases.
- ◆ Identify at least five diversity issues that affect the ability or willingness of coparents to engage in the process and two process modifications.
- ◆ Assess the benefits and risks of using technology in the parenting coordination process.

## Agenda

	Pacific Time US/Canada	Mountain Time US/Canada	Central Time US/Canada	Eastern Time US/Canada	Greenwich Mean Time
<b>December 1</b>					
PC Process I	8am-10am	9am-11am	10am-12pm	11am-1pm	4pm-6pm
PC Process II	11am-1pm	12pm-2pm	1pm-3pm	2pm-4pm	7pm-9pm
<b>December 2</b>					
Family Dynamics	8am-10am	9am-11am	10am-12pm	11am-1pm	4pm-6pm
Techniques & Interventions I	11am-1pm	12pm-2pm	1pm-3pm	2pm-4pm	7pm-9pm
<b>December 3</b>					
Techniques & Interventions II	8am-10am	9am-11am	10am-12pm	11am-1pm	4pm-6pm
Techniques & Interventions III	11am-1pm	12pm-2pm	1pm-3pm	2pm-4pm	7pm-9pm
<b>December 4</b>					
IPV and Safety	8am-10am	9am-11am	10am-12pm	11am-1pm	4pm-6pm
Ethics, Diversity, Technology	11am-1pm	12pm-2pm	1pm-3pm	2pm-4pm	7pm-9pm

# Training Team



**Debra K. Carter, PhD**, is a psychologist and parenting coordinator who has provided training across the globe. She chaired the AFCC Task Force that developed the 2019 *Guidelines for Parenting Coordination*. She is the author of numerous book chapters and articles including *Parenting Coordination: A Practical Guide for Family Law Professionals*. She is also the co-founder and training director of the National Cooperative Parenting Center (NCPC), which offers services to the mental health and legal communities in North America and around the globe. She is a former president of the AFCC Florida Chapter.



**Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP**, is a psychologist and a former AFCC President, who served on both the first AFCC task force and the APA task force that developed *Guidelines for Parenting Coordination*. She has provided training internationally and authored chapters and articles about parenting coordination, as well as other issues related to family conflict. She was the founder and the director of the Center of Excellence for Children, Families and the Law at the William James College, where she developed the Certificate in Child and Family Forensic Issues. From 1990 until 2012, she was on the faculty of Harvard Medical School, most recently as an associate clinical professor of psychology.



**Shely Polak, PhD, AccFM**, is a registered social worker and accredited family mediator. She is the director of a private practice specializing in forensic clinical services, including parenting plan evaluations, family mediation, voice of the child reports, parenting coordination, and other therapeutic services for children and families impacted by divorce in Toronto, Canada. She serves as adjunct faculty at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto. She is a former president of the AFCC Ontario Chapter.



**Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD**, has been on three AFCC Parenting Coordination task forces and is an internationally recognized author and trainer in this area of practice. He co-chaired the AFCC Task Force on Guidelines for Court-Involved Therapy and served on the American Psychological Association Ethics Committee. In 2012, he received the Joseph Drown Award from the California Chapter of AFCC for outstanding service to children and families. He is a former president of AFCC.

# General Information

## What's Included?

The registration fee includes live attendance to the program, access to program materials including recordings and handouts from the presentations, and a certificate of attendance. **Each attendee's certificate will reflect the training hours viewed live only.**

Recordings of the training programs will be available at a reduced price following the completion of the training programs. Continuing education credit is available only for programs attended live.

## What Equipment Do I Need?

AFCC recommends using a desktop or laptop computer to take full advantage of Zoom's capabilities. This will provide a better viewing experience and will permit access to features not available on the Zoom app on tablets and smart phones. A stable internet connection is imperative for the best viewing experience. If you experience internet issues, you may join by phone using the dial-in number provided in the confirmation email from Zoom and follow along using the materials that are available in advance of each program. If you use a Zoom account that is registered in someone else's name, your attendance will not be recorded and AFCC will not be able to issue you a certificate of attendance. To ensure you receive proper credit, use a Zoom account associated with the same email address used in your AFCC profile. You can sign up for a free Zoom account at [zoom.us/signup](https://zoom.us/signup).

## Continuing Education Credits

The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination training program is eligible for up to 16 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. Association of Family and Conciliation Courts is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists #PSY-0190.

AFCC will make an application for continuing education credits for Social Workers through The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and for Parenting Coordinators in Massachusetts. AFCC will submit an application for continuing legal education credits in Vermont and Minnesota for attorneys and reserves the right to modify the list during the registration period.

A certificate of attendance will be provided to all attendees. Attendees may use the AFCC certificate of attendance to verify attendance and apply for continuing education in their jurisdiction. Each attendee's certificate will reflect the training hours viewed live only. Other professionals may opt to apply for continuing education in their discipline in their jurisdiction by providing their certificate of attendance, the brochure, and any training materials directly to their accrediting body. AFCC cannot guarantee that credits will be awarded. It is the responsibility of the attendee to verify eligibility for credit in their discipline in their jurisdiction.

Please consult the training portal at [afccnet.org](https://afccnet.org) for updates regarding CE information.

## Cancellation Policy

Transfer of registration to another person may be made once, at any time without a fee. All requests for refunds must be made in writing. Written notice of cancellation received by fax, sent, and confirmed by email or postmarked on or before November 18, 2025, will be issued a full refund minus a \$75 USD service fee. No refunds or credits will be issued for cancellations received after November 18, 2025. AFCC reserves the right to make changes to the program, including (but not limited to) changes to the content and speakers in the published event schedule, or canceling sessions, should unforeseen circumstances arise.

## Time Zones

While it is not possible to schedule all sessions for daylight hours in all countries, recordings will be made available for purchase after the program has concluded. Please contact AFCC at [afcc@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc@afccnet.org) for further information. The certificate of attendance will only include time logged while attending the initial live session.

## More Information

AFCC strives to highlight different research, advocacy positions, policies, practices, programs, and ideas. Some programs may be evidence-based, while others may report on works in progress, emerging practices, or policy initiatives. The goal of the training is to enhance learning while encouraging respectful inquiry, discussion, and debate consistent with AFCC organizational values. AFCC does not necessarily endorse or support the opinions of presenters.

For program and registration inquiries, contact AFCC at 608-664-3750 or [afcc@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc@afccnet.org).

# Registration

Join AFCC when you register for the training and save up to \$175!

Register online at [afccnet.org](http://afccnet.org) or return this completed form with payment.

Please type or print clearly.

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

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Please indicate the appropriate amount below and total at the bottom.

## AFCC Membership

Join AFCC\* for 12 months and register at AFCC member rates!

\$160 USD

**AFCC Member**

**Non-Member**

## Training Registration

December 1-December 4, 2025

\$275 USD

\$450 USD

**TOTAL:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*AFCC membership includes an electronic subscription to *Family Court Review* with full online access to archives, the AFCC eNEWS, reduced rates for conferences, webinars, and trainings, access to archived webinars in the Member Center, and the searchable Member Directory. Learn more at [afccnet.org](http://afccnet.org).

## Payment

Registrations must be paid in full prior to attendance.

Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed (US currency only, please.)

Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my Visa / MasterCard / American Express / Discover credit card. Transactions will be processed in US dollars; exchange rate on day of transaction will apply.

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

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

**You may register online at [afccnet.org](http://afccnet.org) or return the completed form and payment to:**

### AFCC

6525 Grand Teton Plaza

Madison, WI 53719

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