



AFCC 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.

November 30 - December 3, 2026

Training Team

Debra K. Carter, PhD

Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP

Shely Polak, PhD, MSW, RSW

Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD

Sponsored By



SOBERLINK

Proving Sobriety, Improving Lives

AFCC is an interdisciplinary 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.

November 30 - December 3, 2026

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
November 30					
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
December 1					
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
December 2					
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
December 3					
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 AFCC 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 cofounder 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 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, MSW, RSW, is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Lakehead University's Orillia campus and the founder and director of Mackenzie Clinic, providing clinical and forensic services for families involved in separation and divorce. Dr. Polak is a renowned clinician recognized for conducting parenting plan evaluations, family mediation, reintegration therapy, voice of the child reports, parenting coordination, family therapy, expert witness services, and litigation consulting in family law matters. The combination of her clinical expertise and academic scholarship situates her as a leading contributor to the field of family law and high-conflict co-parenting. 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 the program materials including recordings and handouts from the presentation, and a certificate of attendance. **Each attendee's certificate will reflect the hours viewed live only.**

Note: If you are unable to attend live, recordings of the training programs will be available following the completion of the training programs. Continuing education credit is currently 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 smartphones. 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.

Continuing Education Credits

The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination training program is eligible for 16 hours of continuing education for psychologists. AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC is recognized by the New York Education Department's State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists #PSY-0190. AFCC maintains responsibility for the program and its content. AFCC will make an application for continuing education credits for social workers through the National Association of Social Workers. AFCC will also make applications for CLE to Minnesota and Vermont 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 credits in their discipline in their jurisdiction by providing their Certificate of Attendance, the brochure, and any training materials directly to their accrediting body. Attorneys may apply for CLE in their jurisdiction on their own, but AFCC cannot guarantee that credit will be awarded.



Association of Family and Conciliation Courts has been approved by National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 8118. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. Association of Family and Conciliation Courts is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.

Limitations and Content Access Policy

AFCC strives to offer a wide range of training highlighting different research, advocacy positions, policies, practices, programs, and ideas. Some aspects of this training may be evidence-based, while other aspects may report on innovations still in development, emerging practices, or policy initiatives. The goal of this 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 the presenters and recognizes there may be differing opinions and/or alternative interventions that are not addressed in this specific program. These live presentations, recordings, and associated materials are licensed for your personal, non-transferable use only. Downloading, copying, sharing, text/data mining, or using any portion for AI training or prompts is prohibited. By registering for, attending, or accessing any AFCC content, you agree to the [Content Access Terms](#) and [Code of Conduct](#).

Cancellation Policy

Transfer of registration to another person may be made once, at any time, without a fee. All cancellation and refund requests must be made in writing. Registrants who submit written notice of cancellation by email or postmarked by November 19, 2026, will receive a full refund minus a \$100 USD service fee. No refunds or credits will be issued after November 19, 2026. 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.

More Information

For program and registration inquiries, contact AFCC at 608-664-3750 or afcc@afccnet.org.

Registration

Join AFCC when you register for the training and save!

Register online at 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

November 30-December 3, 2026

\$350 USD

\$525 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.

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 or return the completed form and payment to:

AFCC
2801 Coho St Ste 204
Madison, WI 53713
Phone: 608-664-3750
Fax: 608-664-3751
afcc@afccnet.org



Cancellation Policy: Transfer of registration to another person may be made once, at any time, without a fee. All cancellation and refund requests must be made in writing. Registrants who submit written notice of cancellation by email or postmarked by November 19, 2026, will receive a full refund minus a \$100 USD service fee. No refunds or credits will be issued after November 19, 2026. 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.