



## Safety First Strengthening Family Law Responses to Violence and Coercive Control

**All New!** A two-day, 15.5-hour intensive **online** training designed to meet the urgent need for clarity, consistency, and accountability in how professionals understand and respond to family violence within the family law system.

**June 16-17, 2025**

### Training Team

Amy G. Applegate, JD  
Beth Archer-Kuhn, PhD, MSW  
Natalie Beltrano, PhD(c)  
Hon. Rosemary Collins (Ret.)  
Elisabeth Godbout, MSW, PhD  
Lisa Heslop, PhD  
Peter Jaffe, PhD  
Angelique Jenney, MSW, PhD, RSW  
Sean B. Knuth, PhD

Hilary Linton, JD, LLM  
Glenda Lux, MA, RPsych  
Anadelle M. Martinez-Mullen, JD  
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Archana Medhekar, LLB, LLM  
Michael A. Saini, PhD, MSW, RSW  
Katreena Scott, PhD  
Tracy Shoberg, JD

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# Safety First: Strengthening Family Law Responses to Violence and Coercive Control

**June 16-17, 2025**

AFCC is pleased to offer an all-new comprehensive online training program focused on family violence. Safety First: Strengthening Family Law Responses to Violence and Coercive Control is a two-day, 15.5-hour intensive online training designed to meet the urgent need for clarity, consistency, and accountability in how professionals understand and respond to family violence within the family law system.

As family courts, mediators, and clinicians increasingly encounter complex dynamics involving coercive control, psychological abuse, and intergenerational trauma, this training offers an interdisciplinary and evidence-informed foundation for safer and more effective interventions. Whether you are a judge, lawyer, evaluator, mediator, therapist, or child protection worker, this program is built to deepen your ability to detect harm, assess risk, and prioritize the well-being of children and survivors without compromising legal fairness or due process.

## Participants will explore key topics, including:

- Evolving definitions of family violence and the implications of “concept creep”
- Trauma-informed screening tools and risk assessment strategies
- The unique and often invisible nature of coercive control
- Culturally responsive approaches for working with immigrant racialized and marginalized families
- The developmental impacts of violence on children
- The design of parenting plans that reflect safety, accountability, and healing

Through live presentations, moderated dialogue, and case-based discussions, this training centers on both knowledge and compassion. It responds directly to current legislative trends, including the increased legal recognition of coercive control, and reflects a growing consensus across professions that recognizing harm is not enough; we must also act to reduce it.

Above all, this training honors the shared responsibility of legal and mental health professionals to create family law processes that protect the vulnerable, promote justice, and support long-term resilience in the lives of children and families.

## GENERAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Each session has specific learning objectives. Overall, participants will be able to:

- List various forms of family violence, including coercive control
- Apply screening and risk assessment tools effectively in family law contexts
- Identify the impact of violence on children and appropriate court responses
- Explain parenting plans to account for safety, trauma, and long-term outcomes
- Identify intervention strategies for parents, children, and perpetrators
- Consider cultural, legal, and structural barriers to safety and justice

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# Safety First: Strengthening Family Law Responses to Violence and Coercive Control

DAY ONE: Monday, June 16, 2025

Foundations for Change: Screening, Risk, and Judicial Responses to Family Violence

## SCHEDULE

Some time zones are not listed below. Please convert to your local time zone.

	Pacific Time US/Canada	Central Time US/Canada	Eastern Time US/Canada	Greenwich Mean Time	Australian Eastern Time
Welcome & Opening Remarks	8:00AM-8:05AM	10:00AM-10:05AM	11:00AM-11:05AM	3:00PM-3:05PM	1:00AM-1:05AM
1. Understanding Family Violence—The History, Definitions, Dynamics, and Concept Creep	8:05AM-9:05AM	10:05AM-11:05AM	11:05AM-12:05PM	3:05PM-4:05PM	1:05AM-2:05AM
2. Screening for Family Violence—Early Detection and Legal Considerations	9:05AM-10:05AM	11:05AM-12:05PM	12:05PM-1:05PM	4:05PM-5:05PM	2:05AM-3:05AM
First Break	10:05AM-10:20AM	12:05PM-12:20PM	1:05PM-1:20PM	5:05PM-5:20PM	3:05AM-3:20AM
3. Using the MASIC-Short: A Structured Interview for Screening Violence	10:20AM-11:20AM	12:20PM-1:20PM	1:20PM-2:20PM	5:20PM-6:20PM	3:20AM-4:20AM
4. Embedding the DOORS Framework in Family Court Practice	11:20AM-12:20PM	1:20PM-2:20PM	2:20PM-3:20PM	6:20PM-7:20PM	4:20AM-5:20AM
Mid-Training Break	12:20PM-1:00PM	2:20PM-3:00PM	3:20PM-4:00PM	7:20PM-8:00PM	5:20AM-6:00AM
5. SAFeR: A Brief Screening Tool for Family Law Contexts	1:00PM-2:00PM	3:00PM-4:00PM	4:00PM-5:00PM	8:00PM-9:00PM	6:00AM-7:00AM
6. Risk Assessment and Safety Planning	2:00PM-3:00PM	4:00PM-5:00PM	5:00PM-6:00PM	9:00PM-10:00PM	7:00AM-8:00AM
Final Break	3:00PM-3:15PM	5:00PM-5:15PM	6:00PM-6:15PM	10:00PM-10:15PM	8:00AM-8:15AM
7. Judicial Perspectives on Responding to Family Violence	3:15PM-4:15PM	5:15PM-6:15PM	6:15PM-7:15PM	10:15PM-11:15PM	8:15AM-9:15AM
8. Building Safer Pathways: Strengthening Family Violence Screening and Assessment Across AFCC Guidelines	4:15PM-5:15PM	6:15PM-7:15PM	7:15PM-8:15PM	11:15PM-12:15AM	9:15AM-10:15AM
Wrap-Up & Reflections	5:15PM-5:20PM	7:15PM-7:20PM	8:15PM-8:20PM	12:15AM-12:20AM	10:15AM-10:20AM

# Safety First: Strengthening Family Law Responses to Violence and Coercive Control

## DAY TWO: Tuesday, June 17, 2025

### From Harm to Healing: Parenting Plans, Interventions, and Child-Centered Solutions

#### SCHEDULE

Some time zones are not listed below. Please convert to your local time zone.

	Pacific Time US/Canada	Central Time US/Canada	Eastern Time US/Canada	Greenwich Mean Time	Australian Eastern Time
Welcome Back & Day Two Preview	8:00AM-8:05AM	10:00AM-10:05AM	11:00AM-11:05AM	3:00PM-3:05PM	1:00AM-1:05AM
9. The Impact of Family Violence on Children: Exposure, Adaptation, and Consequences	8:05AM-9:05AM	10:05AM-11:05AM	11:05AM-12:05PM	3:05PM-4:05PM	1:05AM-2:05AM
10. Interventions for Survivors, Children, and Perpetrators	9:05AM-10:05AM	11:05AM-12:05PM	12:05PM-1:05PM	4:05PM-5:05PM	2:05AM-3:05AM
First Break	10:05AM-10:20AM	12:05PM-12:20PM	1:05PM-1:20PM	5:05PM-5:20PM	3:05AM-3:20AM
11. Parenting Plans in the Context of Family Violence	10:20AM-11:20AM	12:20PM-1:20PM	1:20PM-2:20PM	5:20PM-6:20PM	3:20AM-4:20AM
12. Working Across Cultures and Borders—Diversity, Migration, and Justice	11:20AM-12:20PM	1:20PM-2:20PM	2:20PM-3:20PM	6:20PM-7:20PM	4:20AM-5:20AM
Mid-Training Break	12:20PM-1:00PM	2:20PM-3:00PM	3:20PM-4:00PM	7:20PM-8:00PM	5:20AM-6:00AM
13. Repairing Ruptures: Rebuilding Parent-Child Relationships After Family Violence	1:00PM-2:15PM	3:00PM-4:15PM	4:00PM-5:15PM	8:00PM-9:15PM	6:00AM-7:15AM
Final Break	2:15PM-2:30PM	4:15PM-4:30PM	5:15PM-5:30PM	9:15PM-9:30PM	7:15AM-7:30AM
14. Technology in Family Violence Cases: Risks and Responses	2:30PM-3:30PM	4:30PM-5:30PM	5:30PM-6:30PM	9:30PM-10:30PM	7:30AM-8:30AM
15. Final Panel—From Knowledge to Action: Implementation and Next Steps	3:30PM-4:45PM	5:30PM-6:45PM	6:30PM-7:45PM	10:30PM-11:45PM	8:30AM-9:45AM
Closing Reflections & Evaluation Instructions	4:45PM-5:00PM	6:45PM-7:00PM	7:45PM-8:00PM	11:45PM-12:00AM	9:45AM-10:00AM

# Safety First: Strengthening Family Law Responses to Violence and Coercive Control

Monday, June 16, 2025

## Foundations for Change: Screening, Risk, and Judicial Responses to Family Violence

### 1. Understanding Family Violence—The History, Definitions, Dynamics, and Concept Creep

Presenter: Michael A. Saini, PhD, MSW, RSW

To respond effectively to family violence, professionals must begin with a clear understanding of what violence is—and what it is not. This session lays the foundation for the workshop by exploring how our definitions have expanded over time and how that expansion, while necessary, also brings complexity and controversy. We'll reflect on the roots and evolution of terms like coercive control and psychological abuse, and examine how concept creep may influence law, policy, and frontline practice.

#### Learning Objectives

- Define the major forms of family violence, including coercive control and psychological abuse
- Identify how "concept creep" may impact clarity and consistency in legal and clinical settings



**Michael A. Saini, PhD, MSW, RSW**, is a full professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and cross-appointed with the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto. He holds the endowed Factor-Inwentash Chair in Law and Social Work and is the Co-Director of the combined JD / MSW program. He is the current AFCC President. In 2019, he was awarded the AFCC Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award. He was awarded the Meyer Elkin Essay Award from the *Family Court Review* in both 2018 and 2024.

### 2. Screening for Family Violence—Early Detection and Legal Considerations

Presenter: Hilary Linton, JD, LLM

Screening is the first and most vital step in creating safer outcomes for children and families. This session highlights the purpose and power of structured screening in family law, with a focus on asking the right questions in the right way. We'll discuss the difference between screening and risk assessment, address ethical concerns, and consider the limits of informal or unstructured approaches.

#### Learning Objectives

- Explain why consistent screening is critical in family law practice
- Identify key considerations when conducting screening in legal or mediation settings



**Hilary Linton, JD, LLM**, is a former family and civil law litigator. She established Riverdale Mediation in 2001, one of Ontario's first full-service family dispute resolution firms. With five colleagues, she works as a mediator, arbitrator, parent coordinator, child interviewer, and family violence screener. She has designed innovative training for FDR professionals and extensive curriculum in screening for power imbalances including family violence for lawyers, mediators, parenting coordinators and arbitrators. The author of the *Ontario Judges' and Lawyers' Guide to Safety Planning*, she was a member of the Advisory Group that developed *Justice Canada's HELP Toolkit: Identifying and Responding to Family Violence for Family Law Legal Advisors* (2022). She has spoken and written on the research, tools and best practices to support professionals with their duty to "do no harm." Her work has been recognized with awards of excellence from the Ontario Bar Association and the Family Dispute Resolution Institute of Ontario.

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## 3. Using the MASIC-Short: A Structured Interview for Screening Violence

Presenter: Amy G. Applegate, JD

The MASIC-Short (Mediator's Assessment of Safety Issues and Concerns) is a brief but structured screening interview designed for use in mediation and custody evaluations. This session introduces participants to the MASIC-Short tool, covering administration, scoring, and how it guides decision-making about next steps and referrals.

### Learning Objectives

- Describe the purpose and design of the MASIC-Short tool
- Describe how to administer and interpret responses



**Amy G. Applegate, JD**, is a clinical professor of law and Ralph F. Fuchs Faculty Fellow, and the director of the Civil Protection Order Clinic at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. She has introduced screening for intimate partner violence or abuse (IPV) with clients seeking civil protection orders and taught mediation theory and practice in the clinical law program she developed. She and her colleagues developed the Mediator's Assessment of Safety Issues and Concerns (MASIC), and recently the shortened MASIC (MASIC-S). She has tested methods of screening for a history of IPV in cases seeking family mediation, so that mediators are aware of IPV and consider the possible impact of IPV on the mediation process, conducting randomized controlled trials testing the effectiveness of family law interventions, including different mediation approaches (for both families with and without histories of IPV) and online parent education programs.

## 4. Embedding the DOORS Framework in Family Court Practice

Presenter: Elisabeth Godbout, MSW, PhD

The Detection of Overall Risk Screen (DOORS) framework is a tiered model designed to guide early identification of risk in separating families. This session explores how DOORS has been implemented in Canadian jurisdictions and offers insight into how to adapt and scale the model in various professional settings.

### Learning Objectives

- Discuss the three-tiered structure of DOORS (Self-Report, Practitioner, Collaboration)
- Describe how DOORS can improve triage and early intervention



**Elisabeth Godbout, MSW, PhD**, received her MSW and PhD in social work from Laval University. She completed postdoctoral studies at the University of Toronto and the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières. She is currently an associate professor at Laval University's School of Social Work and Criminology. Her research focuses on family transitions (separation, divorce, and stepfamilies) and, more specifically, on high conflict separation and divorce (including conflicts surrounding parenting plans and children's exposure to conflict and domestic violence). She is interested in children's adaptation in these contexts, as well as respect for their rights and interests. She also conducts research on the accessibility of psychosocial and legal services for separated families.

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## 5. SAFeR: A Brief Screening Tool for Family Law Contexts

*Presenters: Anadelle M. Martinez-Mullen, JD and Tracy Shoberg, JD*

SAFeR is a front-end, one-page screening tool designed for professionals who need a quick and effective way to flag family violence concerns. This session provides a walkthrough of the tool's structure, its guiding principles, and how it fits into intake, triage, or ongoing client engagement processes.

### Learning Objectives

- Discuss the purpose, structure, when, and how to integrate SAFeR into family law processes
- Identify red flags that require immediate follow-up or referral



**Anadelle M. Martinez-Mullen, JD**, has been working in the field of violence against women for more than 20 years. She began her work in this field as an advocate assisting victims of intimate partner violence. Upon graduating law school, she practiced family law. Before joining the Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP), she represented victims of violence in civil protection order actions. She has also served as an adjunct professor at Florida Coastal School of Law.



**Tracy Shoberg, JD**, is the deputy director of the National Legal Center on Children and Domestic Violence with the Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP). In this role, she has trained thousands of legal practitioners to enhance their practice surrounding domestic violence, including how to effectively use the SAFeR approach. Tracy holds BAs in English and Gender Studies from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a JD from the University of Minnesota Law School. She committed herself to this work in 2012 when she began working at End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin.

## 6. Risk Assessment and Safety Planning

*Presenters: Lisa Heslop, PhD and Katreena Scott, PhD*

Once violence is detected, professionals need a reliable approach for assessing danger and planning for safety. This session moves from red flags to concrete risk assessment, and from there to coordinated, trauma-informed safety planning that protects children and adults.

### Learning Objectives

- Explain how to distinguish levels of risk and patterns of harm
- Identify tools and strategies for effective safety planning



**Lisa Heslop, PhD**, joined the team at the Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children (CREVAWC), Western University following career managing a clinical crisis intervention team with the London Police Service. She co-leads initiatives at CREVAWC related to family violence and family law and also co-leads Awareness to Action, moving from screening and assessment to developing appropriate parenting plans after family violence in the family justice system. Lisa has a doctoral degree in developmental psychology from the University of Toronto. She is the co-author of articles and book chapters related to gender-based violence and its impact; trauma and violence informed practice; and the criminalization of persons with mental illness. She is a member of the Clinical Panel of the Office of the Children's Lawyer, and a consultant at Navigating Onward, London Family Court Clinic.



**Katreena Scott, PhD**, is a psychologist and a professor in applied psychology within the Faculty of Education at Western University, and a Tier I Canada Research Chair in Ending Child Abuse and Domestic Violence. She serves as the academic director of the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children, where she leads a dedicated team of students and research associates who are working to understand and prevent violence in relationships. Katreena is internationally recognized for her research on empirically and ethically sound policies and practices for intervening with men who have used violence against their partners and/or children.



# Safety First: Strengthening Family Law Responses to Violence and Coercive Control

## 7. Judicial Perspectives on Responding to Family Violence

*Presenter: Hon. Rosemary Collins (Ret.)*

What happens when family violence cases come before the court? A judicial officer shares perspectives on judicial responses to violence, including evidence challenges, trauma-informed practices, and how to craft orders that reflect both protection and due process.

### Learning Objectives

- Explain the judicial role in identifying and responding to family violence
- Discuss challenges courts face in balancing risk and fairness



**Hon. Rosemary Collins (Ret.)**, was the presiding judge of the 17th Circuit Family Court in Illinois and of the Coordinated Family Violence Courts that combined civil and criminal courts dealing with family violence issues in one division. A trained mediator, she launched the court's mediation project, which provided free trained mediators for self-represented litigants in small claims court. Retiring after 30 years on the bench, she now trains across the country on family violence, immigration law training for family court judges, and judicial leadership.

## 8. Building Safer Pathways: Strengthening Family Violence Screening and Assessment Across AFCC Guidelines

*Presenter: Kathleen McNamara, PhD*

This session explores the integration of family violence considerations within major AFCC guidelines and standards, focusing on screening practices, assessment techniques, and responses to coercive control and intimate partner violence (IPV). Drawing on a cross-document comparative review, the presentation highlights consistencies, gaps, and tensions among evaluative, therapeutic, and mediation roles.

### Learning Objectives

- Identify the relevant sections of AFCC guidelines that address violence, including IPV, coercive control, and abuse
- Apply screening, assessment, and safety planning across AFCC guidelines



**Kathleen McNamara, PhD**, is a psychologist in private practice in Fort Collins, Colorado. She received her master's in counseling from The Ohio State University and her doctorate in counseling psychology from Penn State. She was a tenured associate professor of psychology at Colorado State University before devoting herself to full-time practice. She specializes in working with high conflict families. She is a past chair and current member of the Colorado Psychological Association Ethics Committee. She is a past president of the Colorado Chapter of AFCC and remains involved in program planning and chapter development. She also serves on the AFCC Executive Board, Conference Committee, Continuing Education Committee, and Finance Committee.



# Safety First: Strengthening Family Law Responses to Violence and Coercive Control

**Tuesday, June 17, 2025**

## **From Harm to Healing: Parenting Plans, Interventions, and Child-Centered Solutions**

### **9. The Impact of Family Violence on Children: Exposure, Adaptation, and Consequences**

*Presenter: Angelique Jenney, MSW, PhD, RSW*

Violence between parents has ripple effects on children that are often long-lasting and deeply personal. This session reviews the latest research on how exposure to family violence affects children's emotional, cognitive, and behavioral development and how these effects should inform parenting decisions.

#### **Learning Objectives**

- Summarize key research on the short and long-term impact of family violence on children
- Identify coping strategies children may use and how these relate to risk and resilience



**Angelique Jenney, MSW, PhD, RSW**, is an associate professor and the Wood's Homes Research Chair in Children's Mental Health in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary. She has 25 years of experience in intervention and prevention services within the gender-based violence, child protection, and children's mental health sectors. Her community-based, simulation research and practice interests focus on trauma-informed approaches to working with young people with childhood experiences of intimate partner violence and their families.

### **10. Interventions for Survivors, Children, and Perpetrators**

*Presenter: Katreena Scott, PhD*

Recovery and accountability can coexist. This session introduces programs that support survivors, children, and those who have caused harm. The session will discuss intervention models like Caring Dads and explore culturally responsive approaches that meet families where they are.

#### **Learning Objectives**

- Identify intervention models that address patterns of harm while promoting accountability
- Explain the unique needs of children and survivors in the healing process



**Katreena Scott, PhD**, is a psychologist and a professor in applied psychology within the Faculty of Education at Western University, and a Tier I Canada Research Chair in Ending Child Abuse and Domestic Violence. She serves as the academic director of the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children, where she leads a dedicated team of students and research associates who are working to understand and prevent violence in relationships. Katreena is internationally recognized for her research on empirically and ethically sound policies and practices for intervening with men who have used violence against their partners and/or children.

# Safety First: Strengthening Family Law Responses to Violence and Coercive Control

## 11. Parenting Plans in the Context of Family Violence

Presenter: Peter Jaffe, PhD

Parenting plans must adapt to the realities of violence. This session provides guidance on how to develop plans that prioritize safety and minimize risk. Through case examples and research-informed recommendations, the presenter will explore when and how to consider supervised visitation, no contact, or other protective measures.

### Learning Objectives

- Discuss the importance of tailoring parenting plans based on the type and severity of violence
- Explain how to align parenting plans with the best interests of children exposed to harm



**Peter Jaffe, PhD**, is a professor emeritus in the Faculty of Education at the University of Western Ontario. He is also the director emeritus for London Family Court Clinic. For over 40 years, most of his research and clinical work involves adults and children who have been victims of abuse and involved with the criminal, family and civil court systems. He has co-authored 12 books, 40 chapters and more than 90 articles. His publications are related to children, families and the justice system including *Preventing Domestic Homicides: Lessons Learned from Tragedies* and *Understanding Family Violence in Family Court Proceedings: Providing Effective Responses for Victims, Children, and Perpetrators*. He has presented workshops across the United States and Canada, as well as Australia, New Zealand, Costa Rica, and Europe to various groups including judges, lawyers, mental health professionals and educators. Since 1997, he has been a faculty member for the US National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' program on *Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases*. He has been an expert witness in family and criminal law proceedings in five provinces and seven US states. He is a founding member of Canada's first Domestic Violence Death Review Committee through the Office of Ontario's Chief Coroner.

## 12. Working Across Cultures and Borders—Diversity, Migration, and Justice

Presenter: Archana Medhekar, LLB, LLM

Legal responses to family violence must be inclusive and adaptive. This session focuses on families navigating violence while also facing systemic inequities, language barriers, or migration-related vulnerabilities. This segment will offer reflections from her work at the intersection of international law, cultural identity, and trauma.

### Learning Objectives

- Identify barriers to justice for racialized and immigrant families
- Apply principles of equity and cultural humility to family violence practice



**Archana Medhekar, LLB, LLM**, a certified family law specialist and accredited family mediator-arbitrator, has practiced law in Ontario for over 20 years. She is a panel lawyer for the Office of the Children's Lawyer and a member of the Family Rules Committee of Ontario. Her litigation and research focus on the impact of family violence and barriers in accessing justice for individuals with intersectional vulnerabilities. She has co-authored books *Domestic Violence in Immigrant Communities: Case Studies*, *Breaking the Silence: The Untold Journeys of Racialized Immigrant Youth Through Family Violence*, and *Childhood Experiences of Family Violence Among Racialized Immigrant Youth: Case Studies*. A public speaker, educator, and trainer for professionals, mediators, and judges, Archana also works on the United Nations platform for SDG 16+ agenda for peace and justice. She was honored with the Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award.

# Safety First: Strengthening Family Law Responses to Violence and Coercive Control

## 13. Repairing Ruptures: Rebuilding Parent-Child Relationships After Family Violence

Presenters: Glenda Lux, MA, RPsych, Beth Archer-Kuhn, PhD, and Natalie Beltrano, PhD(c)

When violence fractures a child's sense of safety, their relationships with both parents can suffer. This session explores the complex journey of repair following violence, offering insight into what healthy connection looks like and what it doesn't. Presenters will explore appropriate timelines, signs of readiness, and safeguards for safe reintroduction, drawing on evidence-informed models for child-led recovery.

### Learning Objectives

- Explain the emotional and relational impact of violence on parent-child bonds
- Identify risks of premature or court-ordered repair in unresolved violence contexts



**Glenda Lux, MA, RPsych**, has been in clinical practice since 2001 working with parents, children, and families. She is a registered psychologist with an undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Calgary, and a graduate degree in counselling psychology from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. She has specialized training and experience in working with couples and their families as they go through divorce and post-divorce. Ms. Lux provides divorce-related forensic services such as parent mediation, parent coordination, co-parenting counselling, reunification therapy, psychological testing, parenting-time/parenting responsibility assessments (PN8), parental fitness evaluations and litigation support. She has published in the area of coercive control and its relevance to best interest determinations in Canadian family law.



**Beth Archer-Kuhn, PhD, MSW**, is a faculty member in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary, with research experience and interests that include the overlap of child custody decision-making and domestic violence. The implications of this work invite partnerships in the fields of social work, child welfare, children's mental health, domestic violence shelters and law. She teaches across programs: clinical, ICD, leadership, and across levels of programs: BSW, MSW, and PhD. She spent 23 years as a clinical social worker focused on children's mental health, including roles as clinical director of services and executive director. She has completed child custody and access evaluations for the family court in Ontario. In November 2022, she co-authored, *Reigniting Curiosity and Inquiry in Higher Education: A Realist's Guide to Getting Started with Inquiry-Based Learning*.



**Natalie Beltrano, PhD(c)**, is at the School of Social Work at the University of Windsor. From 2004 to 2017, she worked directly with families and children in various child welfare worker positions before she returned to higher education. She left child welfare in 2019 and entered academia; it was at this time she recognized her perpetuation of systemic violence as a child welfare worker. Her research is focused on the impact of systemic violence and oppression in colonial institutions, guided by critical race theory and an intersectionality lens. Her doctoral dissertation focuses on the impact of anti-Black racism and classism in child welfare worker clinical decision-making. Her program of research includes the impact of post-separation coercive control in shared parenting.

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## 14. Technology in Family Violence Cases: Risks and Responses

*Presenter: Sean B. Knuth, PhD*

Technology and artificial intelligence are reshaping the dynamics of family violence. While they can enhance safety and access to support, they also present new avenues for control, coercion, and harm. This session explores the complex role of emerging technologies in family violence cases and offers insights into how professionals can respond with awareness, accountability, and care.

### Learning Objectives:

- Identify inherent risk factors of technology and AI in family violence cases
- Identify potential benefits of technology in family violence dynamics



**Sean B. Knuth, PhD**, is a licensed psychologist specializing in forensically-informed psychological evaluations and psychological/psycho-educational testing. His private practice is focused on child custody litigation-related evaluations and consultation. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara and earned his Doctor of Philosophy in School Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He completed a dual appointment pre-doctoral internship program through UNC Hospital's Forensic Psychiatry Services in Chapel Hill and Durham Public Schools in Durham, North Carolina. In 2011, he relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina and completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Southeast Psych. He also spent nine years as a forensic psychologist and director of training at the Mecklenburg County Forensic Evaluations Unit.

## 15. Final Panel—From Knowledge to Action: Implementation and Next Steps

*Presenters: Training Faculty*

*Moderated by Michael A. Saini, PhD, MSW, RSW*

In our final session, participants will hear closing reflections from faculty and engage in live Q&A. This session offers a space to consolidate learning, share ideas, and commit to change. The panel will also offer thoughts on how professionals can support each other in this complex and essential work.

### Learning Objectives:

- Discuss the training's key takeaways and their relevance to practice
- Identify strategies for applying knowledge in day-to-day decision-making

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## 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 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 Safety First: Strengthening Family Law Responses to Violence and Coercive Control training program is eligible for 15.5 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.

## 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 email or postmarked by June 2, 2025, will be issued a full refund minus a \$75 USD service fee. No refunds or credits will be issued for cancellations received after June 2, 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 entire 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 sessions.

## 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).

# Safety First: Strengthening Family Law Responses to Violence and Coercive Control

Not a member yet, join AFCC when you register for this training and save \$15 USD and begin reaping the **benefits!**\*  
Register online at [afccnet.org](http://afccnet.org) or return this completed form with payment.

Please type or print clearly.

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

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

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

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

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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

## Training Registration

### AFCC Member

### Non-Member

June 16-17, 2025

\$375 USD

\$550 USD

**Total:**

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

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

\*AFCC membership includes an electronic subscription to the AFCC quarterly academic journal, Family Court Review, with full online access to all archives. Membership also includes a subscription to the AFCC eNEWS; reduced registration rates for AFCC conferences, webinars, and training programs; access to the online Member Center featuring archived webinars; and the searchable Member Directory. More information is available 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; change rate on day of transaction will apply.

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**AFCC**  
6525 Grand Teton Plaza  
Madison, WI 53719  
Phone: 608-664-3750  
Fax: 608-664-3751  
[afcc@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc@afccnet.org)