In collaboration with
Loyola University Chicago School of Law
Civitas ChildLaw Center

Parenting Coordination:
Essential Tools for Conflict Resolution
Mindy Mitnick, EdM, MA
March 2-3, 2020

Understanding Child Development and
Family Dynamics: It’s a Brave New World
Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, MSL
March 4-5, 2020

Loyola University Chicago
Philip H. Corboy Law Center
Chicago, Illinois
Parenting Coordination: Essential Tools for Conflict Resolution

A two-day training program for parenting coordinators, mediators, custody evaluators, lawyers, judges, therapists, and other professionals who work with high-conflict families.

This program will describe the fundamentals of parenting coordination (PC), including the principles and functions of the PC role, the knowledge base for being an effective PC, and ethical guidelines. This interactive training will assist professionals in understanding the PC process, scope of authority, and techniques and strategies to help parents improve cooperation and communication. Participants will learn how to help clients utilize the process and how to effectively write recommendations or decisions.

Participants in this two-day training program will learn to:

- Differentiate the PC role from other related roles
- Identify the impact of high-conflict dynamics on parents and children
- Apply an understanding of high-conflict dynamics to PC role
- Establish screening techniques for domestic violence
- Establish an effective PC contract
- Identify in-session and between-session strategies for managing conflict
- Implement strategies for improving parents’ communication
- Avoid alignment with clients through self-check for bias
- Write effective recommendations/decisions

About the Presenter

Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA, is a licensed psychologist practicing in Minneapolis. She received a Master of Education from Harvard University along with Master of Arts from the University of Minnesota. She specializes in work with families in the divorce process and with victims of abuse and their families. Ms. Mitnick has trained professionals throughout the country and abroad in identification and treatment of child abuse, the use of expert witnesses in child abuse and divorce cases, effective interviewing techniques with children, interventions in high-conflict divorce, and the impact of psychological trauma. She has been a speaker for the National Child Protection Training Center, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse, National Association of Counsel for Children, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and numerous statewide multidisciplinary training programs. Ms. Mitnick has written and taught extensively about the assessment of child sexual abuse allegations during custody disputes. Ms. Mitnick served as a member of the ABA Criminal Justice Section Task Force on Child Witnesses and the AFCC Task Force on Guidelines for Court-Involved Therapy. She serves as the Vice President on the AFCC Executive Committee.

Agenda

Monday, March 2, 2020, 8:30am-4:00pm
1. Understanding the parenting coordinator role and how it differs from other roles
2. High conflict from the perspective of the parent and the child
3. Domestic violence screening and the impact of family violence on parenting
4. Applying the AFCC Guidelines on Parenting Coordination
5. Why do I need a contract? What should it cover?

Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 8:30am-4:00pm
1. Strategies for decreasing conflict
2. Strategies for improving communication
3. Ethical dilemmas
4. Writing recommendations/decisions
5. Lessons I learned before—and after—it was too late
Understanding Child Development and Family Dynamics: It's a Brave New World

A two-day training program for parenting coordinators, mediators, custody evaluators, lawyers, judges, therapists, and other professionals who work with families.

How do we do our best family law-related practice if we don’t understand child and family development in terms of today’s current issues, research, and practice relevant to separation and divorce? This workshop is for mental health, legal and educational professionals who work with children and families and want an update on what affects development—positively and negatively—and what they can do to tip the needle towards increased co-parenting and positive child development. Contemporary issues such as intercultural couples, children with special needs, and parenting children across gender orientations or identities will be discussed and applied to parenting plans. Decision making for young children in overnight situations will be addressed. A combination of lecture, videos, case analysis, and group consultation will be utilized to achieve learning goals.

Participants in this two-day training program will learn to:

- Think systemically and recognize common family dynamics underlying parenting time conflicts
- Identify developmental stages and diverse expressions stemming from experiences of separation and divorce
- Describe social and emotional developmental milestones from infancy through adolescence and how they are important to consider in parenting plans
- Utilize concepts of trauma-informed practice—the shift from “What’s wrong with you?” to “What (has/is) happen(ed/ing) to you?”
- Apply decision making principles for young children and overnights to a case
- Increase knowledge about current issues such as parenting and parenting time considerations for children with intercultural or gender non-conforming (GNC) identities or Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)

About the Presenter

Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, MSL, is a psychologist with master’s degrees in law and education. She is the Maconda Brown O’Connor Professor at Smith College School for Social Work. She has nearly 30 years of clinical experience, with expertise in couples and family counseling, father involvement and co-parenting consultation, expert witness testimony, mediation, and the design and evaluation of model ADR programs, which help families resolve disputes within and outside of the legal system. She has written extensively for professional and lay audiences, including the book Partnership Parenting (Perseus), co-authored with her husband. Her research on a model continuum of effective and cost-efficient co-parenting services in the Connecticut courts earned her the Association of Family and Conciliation Court’s (AFCC) Stanley Cohen Award for Distinguished Research. She is a past President of the AFCC and the social science editor of the Family Court Review. She is one of the founders of the Coparenting Research Library (coprl.com), launched recently to make social science research more affordable and accessible to families and law professionals alike.

Agenda

Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 8:30am-4:00pm
1. Family Science: definitions, problematic dynamics, and assessment
2. Early Child Development (Birth-age 5): social and emotional milestones, attachment, daycare quality, impact of media time, and young children and overnights case analysis
3. Depressed parents as a risk factor
4. Middle Childhood (age 6-12): social and emotional milestones, effective parenting styles and strategies, tasks for adjusting to separation and divorce, and children with ADD

Thursday, March 5, 2020, 8:30am-4:00pm
1. Adolescence (age 12-18): development of cultural/ethnic and gender identity, affirmative practices with LGBTQ/trans/GNC youth
2. Depressed youth as a risk factor
3. Developmental tasks and red flags at all ages among children with separated parents
4. Applications and group consultation
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Location: Loyola University Chicago, Philip H. Corboy Law Center, 25 East Pearson Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

Registration: Registration includes program materials, training, and refreshments. Lunch is on your own. Register early—class size is limited.

Continuing Education Credits: Each training program is eligible for 12 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. Continuing education units for social workers licensed in Illinois are pending approval. Additional information will be included with registration confirmations. Each training program is pending approval by the Illinois MCLE Board for 12 CLE credits. Any fees due for Illinois MCLE will be the responsibility of the individual applicant. A certificate of attendance will be provided to all attendees.

Lodging: Two room blocks have been reserved near Loyola University. Rooms frequently sell out before the room block is released so please make your reservation early!

Homewood Suites Hilton, 40 East Grand Avenue, Chicago, 9-minute/.4-mile walk to Loyola University. For reservations at the special rate of $144 per night, call 312-644-7819 and mention the AFCC Loyola University event or reserve online at www.afccnet.org. On February 10, 2020, any unreserved rooms in the block will be released and the special rate will no longer be guaranteed.

Residence Inn Chicago Downtown Hotel, 201 East Walton Place, Chicago, 10-minute/.5-mile walk to Loyola University. For reservations at the special rate of $137 per night, call 800-228-9290 and mention the Magnificent Mile room block or reserve online at www.afccnet.org. On February 10, 2020, any unreserved rooms in the block will be released and the special rate will no longer be guaranteed.

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 or postmarked by February 17, 2020, will be issued a full refund minus a $75 administrative fee. No refunds will be issued for cancellations received after February 17, 2020. AFCC reserves the right to cancel any training or substitute any presenter should circumstances arise beyond our control.

More Information: For program and registration inquiries, contact AFCC at 608-664-3750 or afcc@afccnet.org. For information about lodging and onsite logistics, contact Griselda Sanchez, Civitas ChildLaw Center at Loyola University Chicago, 312-915-7956 or gsanch3@luc.edu. For the latest information on AFCC trainings and conferences, visit www.afccnet.org.
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BOTH trainings (discounted rate)
$595 $800

Total

$ _______ $ _______

Payment method:
Registrations must be paid in full prior to attendance.

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You may register online at www.afccnet.org or return completed form and payment to:

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