In collaboration with
University of Baltimore School of Law
Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center
for Families, Children and the Courts

**Essential Elements of Parenting Coordination**

Debra K. Carter, PhD

December 2-3, 2019

**Critical Issues in Child Custody:**
To Share or Not to Share?

Philip M. Stahl, PhD, ABPP

December 4-5, 2019

University of Baltimore
Bogomolny Room
Student Center, Fifth Floor
21 West Mt Royal Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201
Essential Elements of Parenting Coordination

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

This training program presents a comprehensive overview of the definition, role, responsibilities, and function of the parenting coordinator. Parenting coordination is an out-of-court dispute resolution process designed to assist coparents in managing parenting disputes, minimize litigation, and shield the children from harmful interparental conflict. The integrated model of parenting coordination highlights factors leading to entrenched child-related disputes, the pathways and personalities that lead parents to enduring conflict, and specialized interventions to address intractable conflict. This program will focus on practice issues including (1) structuring the parenting coordination process; (2) initial and ongoing assessments; (3) interventions for case and conflict management; and, (4) effective utilization of a collaborative support team. In addition, the new AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Coordination and core competency areas for training will be highlighted.

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

- Describe the initial and ongoing assessment protocols within the parenting coordination process
- Describe the phases of the integrated model of parenting coordination along with the goals and progression of the process
- Distinguish parenting coordination from other professional roles and dispute resolution processes
- Identify the types of conflict most destructive for children
- Utilize interventions to protect children from interparental conflict
- Identify and apply strategic interventions for conflict management within the parenting coordination process
- List changes to national guidelines and ethical standards for parenting coordination
- Summarize the research on parenting coordination and its utility for effective parenting coordination interventions
- Distinguish those cases that are inappropriate for parenting coordination

About the Presenter

Debra K. Carter, PhD, is a clinical and forensic psychologist, a certified family law mediator, and a qualified parenting coordinator. 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. Dr. Carter is a leading researcher on the efficacy of parenting coordination and the author of Parenting Coordination: A Practical Guide for Family Law Professionals and Co-Parenting After Divorce: A GPS for Healthy Kids, in addition to numerous chapters and articles on family law matters. Dr. Carter is on the faculty at the University of South Florida and recent Chair of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) Guidelines for Parenting Coordination Task Force (2019). She is past president of the Florida Chapter of AFCC and has received numerous state and national awards for her valuable contribution to the field of psychology, family law, and parenting coordination.

Agenda

Monday December 2, 2019, 8:30am-4:00pm
1. Parenting coordination: Definitions, objectives, qualifications, legal context, confidentiality, and sources of authority
2. Critical elements in court orders for parenting coordination
3. Phases of parenting coordination: Procedures, forms, informed consent, and fees
4. Initial and ongoing assessment procedures: Intimate partner violence, mental health, substance abuse, and parenting strengths
5. Developing an intervention strategy: Prioritizing intervention, establishing rules of engagement, and setting realistic goals
6. Establishing essential elements of the process: Parenting plan, collaborative team, communication protocol, and oversight/monitoring (overnight assignment)

Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 8:30am-4:00pm
1. Differentiating parental conflict
2. Strategic interventions for conflict management
3. Child-informed/inclusive procedures within the parenting coordination process
4. Research on parenting coordination
5. New AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Coordination and Training Modules
6. Developing a parenting coordination program and practice
Critical Issues in Child Custody: To Share or Not to Share?

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

Developing parenting plans for separating and divorcing parents has become increasingly complex in recent years as new statutes, court rules, programs, practices, and research come to light. Is shared parenting always best for children? What about 50/50 presumptions? What is the impact of domestic violence or high conflict? What happens when one parent relocates or when special needs children are involved?

Day one of this program will explore these and other fundamental child custody issues, incorporating the most recent research and thinking about parenting time, domestic violence, high conflict, and relocation.

Day two will build on AFCC’s guidelines and model standards that address child custody evaluations and incorporate research on various biases that affect decision-making processes, participants will explore the process of identifying factors that support a shared parenting approach and when it may present challenges.

This interactive program is based on an interdisciplinary perspective.

Participants in this two-day training program will learn to:
- Understand and integrate the latest research related to parenting plans
- Recognize the potential impact of domestic violence and high conflict on shared parenting
- Integrate a developmental and special needs approach into child custody determinations
- Manage plans in relocation/long-distance parenting arrangements
- Understand and integrate AFCC Model Standards and Guidelines when working with families and making decisions about child custody matters
- Utilize a decision-making process for child custody determinations, based on one’s professional role
- Understand the nature of cognitive, cultural, and implicit bias on decision-making
- Manage and control for such biases in one’s work, regardless of one’s role

About the Presenter

Dr. Philip Stahl is a forensic psychologist in private practice, living in Maricopa County, AZ, who provides consultation and expert witness testimony in child custody litigation throughout the United States and North America. His primary area of specialty is relocation, including complex international relocations. Dr. Stahl conducts trainings throughout the United States and internationally for attorneys, child custody evaluators, judges, and others working with high-conflict families of divorce. He is on the faculty of National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, teaching domestic violence to judges since 2000, and he regularly speaks at state judicial colleges.

Dr. Stahl has written extensively on high-conflict divorce and custody evaluations. He is the author of Conducting Child Custody Evaluations: From Basic to Advanced Issues and Parenting After Divorce, 2nd Edition, and is co-author of Forensic Psychology Consultation in Child Custody Litigation: A Handbook for Work Product Review, Case Preparation, and Expert Testimony, and Representing Children in Dependency and Family Court: Beyond the Law, co-authored with his daughter, Rebecca Stahl, JD, LLM.

Agenda

Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 8:30am-4:00pm
1. Introductions and context of shared parenting
2. Research on developmentally appropriate parenting plans
3. Domestic violence
4. High conflict
5. Relocation

Thursday, December 5, 2019, 8:30am-4:00pm
1. AFCC Guidelines and Model Standards
2. Research on implicit bias
3. Cultural bias
4. Cognitive biases and heuristics
5. Managing and controlling for biases
6. Putting it all together: Things to embrace
**General Information**

**Essential Elements of Parenting Coordination**
December 2-3, 2019, 8:30am-4:00pm

**Critical Issues in Child Custody: To Share or Not to Share?**
December 4-5, 2019, 8:30am-4:00pm

**Location**: University of Baltimore, Bogomolny Room, Student Center, Fifth Floor, 21 West Mt Royal Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21201

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

**Continuing Education Credits**: Each two-day 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. The University of Baltimore School of Law Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts, as a state accredited academic institution, qualifies as an automatic sponsor for offering academic courses or programs recognized as acceptable social work curriculum subject areas pursuant to the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners Continuing Education Regulations. Continuing legal education is not mandatory in Maryland; registrants outside the state will need to seek approval with their state’s bar or licensing board.

**Lodging**: A block of rooms has been reserved at Hotel Indigo Baltimore-Downtown, 24 W. Franklin Street, Baltimore, MD, 20101 in the name of AFCC. For reservations at the special rate of $99/night plus tax for single or double occupancy, call 855-914-1370 and request the AFCC-University of Baltimore special rate or reserve online at www.afccnet.org. Make your reservations soon—any unreserved rooms will be released November 5, 2019.

**Cancellation Policy**: Transfer of registration to another person may be done 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 November 11, 2019, will be issued a full refund minus a $75 service fee. No refunds will be issued for cancellations received after November 11, 2019. AFCC reserves the right to cancel any training or substitute any presenter should circumstances beyond our control arise.

**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 Katrice Williams at the Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts, 410-837-5615 or kwilliams2@ubalt.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 $ _______ $ _______

*AFCC membership includes a print and electronic subscription to the AFCC quarterly academic and research journal, Family Court Review, with full online access to all archives. Membership also includes a subscription to AFCC eNEWS; reduced registration rates for AFCC conferences, webinars, and trainings; access to the online Member Center featuring archived webinars, and the searchable Member Directory. More information is available at www.afccnet.org.

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