

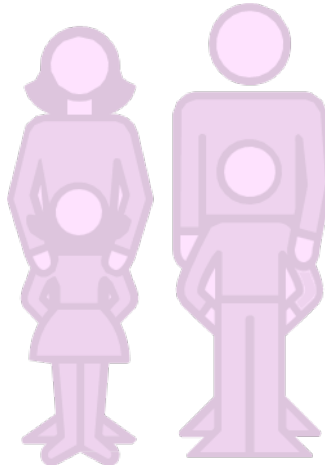


**ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY  
AND CONCILATION COURTS**

## ***AFCC's Online Training Program*** **Advanced Issues in Family Law: Parent-Child Contact Problems**

*All New!* A comprehensive, innovative, online training program for professionals interested in this complex parent-child dynamic.

**January 13-16, 2025**



### **Training Team**

Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP

Leslie Drozd, PhD

John A. "Jack" Moran, PhD

Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, ABPP

Matthew Sullivan, PhD

Peggie Ward, PhD

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

# Advanced Issues in Family Law: Parent-Child Contact Problems

*All New!* A comprehensive, innovative 16-hour online training program for professionals interested in parent-child contact problems – one of the most challenging and sometimes frustrating areas of family law.

**January 13-16, 2025**

AFCC is pleased to offer an exciting, all new, comprehensive online training program on the presentation and management of parent-child contact problems that arise in family court matters, facilitated online by a team of leading practitioners and trainers. The program will take place in two segments per day, two hours each, over the course of 4 days. Recordings of all sessions will be available for registrants.

The experienced faculty will use a multi-media approach to introduce a fictional family with many aspects of what attendees might encounter when working with actual parent-child contact problems in the field. Participants will learn more about assessing parent-child contact problems, including allegations and cross-allegations, to more effectively get to the underlying roots of the presenting problem, and to develop nuanced approaches to resolving some of these extremely difficult dilemmas. Attendees will learn more about how to develop and test multiple hypotheses, and how to craft recommendations that maximize successful outcomes and minimize risks for families. Through the use of video clips, teaching concepts, and group discussion, those attending this program will engage in a detailed examination of parent-child contact problems and the issues and challenges that frequently arise.

**This program will incorporate an overview of basic and more advanced concepts, including:**

- A definition of parent-child contact problems
- An overview of family dynamics and interrelationships
- Individual, interpersonal, and external factors that influence parent-child dynamics
- Multi-factors that predispose, precipitate, and perpetuate parent-child contact problems
- Family violence, and the different types of control that exist in PCCP cases, including coercive control
- Parent alienating behaviors (PABs) in their various forms
- Specifics of the evaluation process, including identifying “red” and “green” flags as guidelines for how to proceed
- Best practices for accurate assessment of families with allegations of abuse, alienation, and compromised parenting
- Strategies for maximizing success and minimizing risk, including the risks of “concept creep”
- Potential for biases in any role that can lead to misunderstanding
- Interventions, including possible goals for family members engaged in interventions
- Apologies and the dilemmas they introduce
- Challenges when one parent seeks to move quickly in the process and the other seeks to stall
- When to persist and when to let it go
- Response when the family takes an unexpected shift in direction
- Reference to and integration of some of the current research, ethics, and more!

## Sessions

**Module 1:** Participants will meet the fictional family and review the foundations of interpersonal and family dynamics, including human development, child temperament, and challenges that stem from special concerns such as family violence, substance use and misuse, and other internal and external factors. This module will include the examination of an overview of when, whether and how to intervene in mild, moderate and severe family situations.

**Module 2:** Faculty will examine the many lenses through which to view our fictional family and how best to moderate risk and maximize success in any professional intervention. Complications of concept creep will be explored. Biases leading to misunderstanding and polarization are demonstrated in novel ways. Participants will also learn about structured assessment designed to minimize risk during the process.

**Module 3:** This session will be focused on all the areas that are encompassed by the term “family violence,” including intimate partner violence, domestic violence, coercive control (CC) and types of control, child abuse and neglect, and child sexual abuse. Anxiety, stress, and toxic stress will be addressed. The session will include consideration of social and cultural issues.

**Module 4:** This session will include an exploration of the multi-factors that predispose, precipitate, and perpetuate parent-child contact problems; and consideration of parent alienating behaviors (PAB) in their various forms. Attendees will also learn about high conflict dynamics, poor parenting, compromised parenting, impaired parenting, and a pattern of unwarranted negative messages by one parent in an attempt to convince a child that the other parent is “bad,” dangerous, disinterested, or not to be trusted.

**Module 5:** Participants will learn about possible interventions with PCCP families, including the steps to create and set up an intervention, the development of intervention goals, and some of the different challenges for success.

**Module 6:** Faculty will discuss suggestions for navigating the pathways and pitfalls when working with PCCP - including a detailed examination of multiple dilemmas professionals face when working with complex families.

**Module 7:** This session will offer participants a chance to test their knowledge with an evolving case study. A faculty panel will discuss the multiple challenges of how and if to intervene when a case shifts unexpectedly or when new allegations arise. Dilemmas around allegations of IPV, severity of child's resistance, child's voice, lack of parent communication, and increased litigation take center stage.

**Module 8:** In this wrap-up session, participants will explore what to do when the puzzle pieces don't fit. A faculty panel will discuss factors that help determine when, and if so how, to persist in the most entrenched cases, and what factors determine a successful intervention. Topics raised by the audience throughout the course will be addressed here including complex and controversial areas such as what to do when the case is not responding to treatment; how, if, and when to change direction when safety, stress, or anxiety manifest; and what to do when the parties can no longer pay you; when you have crossed an ethical boundary; or when one party threatens to file a complaint.

# Advanced Issues in Family Law: Parent-Child Contact Problems

## Learning Objectives

Participants in this online training program will be able to:

- Define parent-child contact problems (PCCP)
- Describe strategies to intervene in an enmeshed parent-child relationship
- List 3 early factors that suggest a family is appropriate for PCCP interventions
- Describe the risks associated with “concept creep” and the use of imprecise terms to describe PCCP
- Examine best practices for accurate assessment of families with allegations of abuse, alienation, and compromised parenting
- Describe the many areas covered under the term “family violence”
- Discuss the differences among various types of control exerted by PCCP parents
- Identify multi-factors that predispose, precipitate, and perpetuate parent-child contact problems
- Identify parent alienating behaviors (PABs) in their various forms
- Identify the steps needed to set up an intervention
- Determine possible intervention goals for family members who are engaged in a family intervention
- Describe actions to take when a rejected parent wants the intervention to move faster, and the favored parent wants to stall
- Explain what to do when a court order requires you to determine parenting time
- Discuss ethical dilemmas that present when working with a PCCP family
- Utilize a framework for setting up and delivering apologies in parent-child relationships
- Analyze best practices to intervene in a PCCP case where there are allegations of parent-child gatekeeping, and a child is refusing contact with one parent
- Discuss the factors that help determine when to persist in a parent-child reconciliation and when to let go
- Describe strategies to employ when a PCCP case shifts in unexpected directions
- Identify two factors that determine a successful intervention

## Schedule

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

	Pacific Time US/Canada Vancouver	Central Time US/Canada Chicago	Eastern Time US/Canada New York	Greenwich Meantime London	Central European Time Barcelona	Israel Standard Time Tel Aviv
<b>January 13</b>						
Module 1	8am-10am	10am-12pm	11am-1pm	3pm-5pm	4pm-6pm	5pm-7pm
Module 2	11am-1pm	1pm-3pm	2pm-4pm	6pm-8pm	7pm-9pm	8pm-10pm
<b>January 14</b>						
Module 3	8am-10am	10am-12pm	11am-1pm	3pm-5pm	4pm-6pm	5pm-7pm
Module 4	11am-1pm	1pm-3pm	2pm-4pm	6pm-8pm	7pm-9pm	8pm-10pm
<b>January 15</b>						
Module 5	8am-10am	10am-12pm	11am-1pm	3pm-5pm	4pm-6pm	5pm-7pm
Module 6	11am-1pm	1pm-3pm	2pm-4pm	6pm-8pm	7pm-9pm	8pm-10pm
<b>January 16</b>						
Module 7	8am-10am	10am-12pm	11am-1pm	3pm-5pm	4pm-6pm	5pm-7pm
Module 8	11am-1pm	1pm-3pm	2pm-4pm	6pm-8pm	7pm-9pm	8pm-10pm

**NOTE:** If you are unable to attend live, stay tuned to the AFCC website for a special offer. Recordings of the training programs will be available at a reduced price for non-registrants following the completion of the program. **Continuing education credit is available only for programs attended live.**

# Training Team



**Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP** is a Board-certified psychologist in Couple and Family Psychology (ABCFP) and a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA). She developed and was the director of the Center of Excellence for Children, Families and the Law at William James College where she was a Professor of Clinical Psychology. Previously she was an Associate Clinical Professor of Psychology at Harvard Medical School and Director of Training in the Children and the Law Program, Department of Psychology at Massachusetts General Hospital. She has published extensively on issues related to attachment, alienation, co-parenting after divorce, high conflict divorce, parent-child contact problems, parenting plans, and parenting coordination. Dr. Deutsch has served on numerous AFCC and APA task forces. She is also a former president of AFCC.



**Leslie M. Drozd, PhD** is a psychologist with 36 years of practice in forensic and clinical psychology in California, Washington, and Hawaii. She has conducted parenting plan evaluations in addition to serving as a forensic consultant and as a testifying and didactic expert. Leslie has co-authored professional guidelines for conducting evaluations and co-edited books, chapters, and articles on conducting evaluations, domestic violence, substance misuse, trauma, alienation, gatekeeping, step-up parenting plans, relocation, psychological testing, child sexual abuse, parenting coordination, and family therapy with families with parent-child contact problems. She served on the American Psychological Association's Ethics Committee and on numerous boards of directors including AFCC's.



**John A. "Jack" Moran, PhD** is on the Board of Directors of Overcoming Barriers, Inc. and has served as the clinical director of three OCB family camps. In addition to writing book chapters and journal articles, he coauthored two books on Resist Refuse problems: *Overcoming the Coparenting Trap: Essential Skills When a Child Resists a Parent*; and, *Overcoming the Alienation Crisis: 33 Coparenting Solutions*. He provides training and consultations to behavioral health professionals, attorneys and judges. He is former president of the Arizona Chapter of AFCC.



**Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, ABPP** is the Maconda Brown O'Connor Professor at Smith College School for Social Work. A prolific writer, speaker, and consultant, she has a reputation for the development, implementation, and evaluation of preventive interventions in courts and family-focused community agencies. She specializes in issues pertaining to coparenting, father involvement, life transitions, early development, parental conflict, and family law. She has been a key consultant and evaluator for the Out of Court Divorce program in Denver, CO and the Family Resolutions Specialty Court in Hampshire County, MA. She was awarded AFCC's Stanley Cohen Award for Distinguished Research and the Meyer Elkin Essay Award for the 2023 article PCCP through the eyes of professionals in the *Family Court Review* where she serves as the Social Science editor. She is a former President of AFCC.



**Matthew Sullivan, PhD** has been in private practice in California, specializing in family dispute resolution and clinical work in the family courts for over 30 years. He is a pioneer in the development of the parenting coordination role internationally and regularly presents at conferences and trains family justice professionals about parent-child contact problems in shared parenting arrangements. He was a recipient of the AFCC's president's award in 2023 and the Myer Elkin essay award for the article judged best in the 2024 volume of the *Family Court Review* where he currently serves on the editorial board. He served on the APA Ethics Committee from 2016-2018. Dr. Sullivan is the co-founder of Overcoming Barriers, Inc. He is also a former President of AFCC.



**Peggie Ward, PhD** is a clinical-forensic psychologist who has specialized in the areas of child abuse, alcohol abuse, and parent child contact problems for 35 years. Her independent practice focuses on complex parent child and family interactions where family conflict is a dominant factor. Dr. Ward has held appointments at Tufts Medical School and Harvard Medical School. She has served on the AFCC MA Board of Directors and FLAFCC Board of Directors where she is currently Vice President. She has published articles on parental alienation. She contributed several chapters to the edited book, *Overcoming Parent Child Contact Problems: Family-based Interventions for Resistance, Rejection, and Alienation* (2015). Dr. Ward has created courses for William James College on Interventions for Parent Child Contact Problems.

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

For information, please contact AFCC at [afcc@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc@afccnet.org) or 608-664-3750.

## 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 lose internet service, you may call into the training (call in numbers will be included in your confirmation email) and follow the slides that are available in advance of each program. If you need assistance, please call the AFCC office at 608-664-3750.

A Zoom account is not required if you are simply joining Zoom as a participant. It may, however, be simpler to sign on if you have an account. Please note that you must sign on from your own Zoom account. 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 insure you receive proper credit, use a Zoom account associated with the same email address you use for your AFCC profile. You can sign up for a free Zoom account at [zoom.us/signup](https://zoom.us/signup).

## Continuing Education Credits

Advanced Issues in Family Law: Parent-Child Contact Problems 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 application for continuing education credits for social workers through the National Association of Social Workers. 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. AFCC will not be applying for CLE for attorneys for all jurisdictions for this training program due to the vast difference in requirements across jurisdictions. AFCC will apply to Vermont and Minnesota for CLE credit, the approval by which due to reciprocity considerations might be applicable in other jurisdictions as well. Attorneys are able to 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 fax, sent, and confirmed by email or postmarked by January 3, 2025, will be issued a full refund minus a \$75 administrative fee. No refunds will be issued for cancellations received after January 3, 2025. AFCC reserves the right to cancel any training or substitute any presenter should circumstances beyond our control 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 sessions.

## More Information

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

# Registration

Become an AFCC member for just \$150 when you register for this event and unlock the exclusive member rate! Allowing you to become an AFCC for essentially free! Plus, as a member, you'll enjoy even more savings on future AFCC events and access to valuable resources.

**Select "New Membership Special" below. Your AFCC membership will instantly pay for itself.**

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

**Please type or print clearly.**

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

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### New Member Special

Join AFCC\* for 12 months and register at AFCC member rates!  
(First-time members only)

### Advanced Training:

#### Parent-Child Contact Problems

January 13-16, 2025

#### AFCC Member

#### Non-Member

\$300

\$450

#### Total:

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\*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; conversion rate on day of transaction will apply)*

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

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or return the completed form and payment to:**

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6525 Grand Teton Plaza  
Madison, WI 53719  
Phone: 608-664-3750  
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