



AFCC eNEWS

MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER
VOL. 4 NO. 3
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New Orleans A Great Place to Visit

New Orleans is a city with great food, great music and great soul. You don't have to spend a lot of money to enjoy the city or eat well. Here are a sampling of sites that can help you navigate your visit on a shoestring!

Request a handy guide to the city, which includes maps, a calendar of events, and \$150 in coupons! Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. The [guide is available online](#) and you can [download the coupons](#).

[Top ten New Orleans experiences start here...](#)

[25 reasons we love New Orleans.](#)
Courtesy of BudgetTravel.com

New Orleans Hotel Rooms Limited Number Remain at Reduced Rate

If you plan to attend AFCC's 46th Annual Conference, *Children, Courts and Custody: Back to the Future or Full Steam Ahead?*, NOW is the time to book your hotel room! The AFCC room block at the Sheraton New Orleans is filled; however, the hotel is still accepting reservations at the special rate of \$165 per night. Call the hotel immediately at (504) 525-2500 and ask for the AFCC special rate or click below to reserve your room online.

[Click here for online hotel reservations ...](#)

Great Airfares to New Orleans

Sample round-trip airfares to New Orleans for the 46th Annual Conference found on Expedia.com on March 12, 2009:

Boston \$202	New York LaGuardia \$209
Chicago \$237	Philadelphia \$187
Dallas \$157	Phoenix \$219
Denver \$199	San Francisco \$239
Los Angeles \$219	Seattle \$209
Miami \$164	St. Louis \$193
Minneapolis \$295	Tampa \$142
Newark \$229	Washington Dulles \$259

RESEARCH UPDATE

Child Abuse And Domestic Violence Are a Bad Combination



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

46th Annual Conference
*Children, Courts and Custody:
Back to the Future or Full
Steam Ahead?*
May 27-30, 2009
Sheraton New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana
[Conference program...](#)

**AFCC Regional Training
Conference**
*Interventions for Family
Conflict: Stacking the Odds
in Favor of Children*
November 5-7, 2009
Peppermill Resort
Reno, Nevada
[Submit workshop proposal...](#)

AFCC Trainings
[Training schedule & brochure](#)
**Advanced Issues in Child
Custody**
Nancy Williams Olesen, Ph.D.

June 22-23, 2009

Courtesy of J.M. Craig Press, Inc.

We have reviewed a number of articles that evaluated the impact of domestic violence on children. This review article captures a large number of additional factors that may contribute to better and worse outcomes and helps us understand just how complex this issue can be.

[Read more...](#)

ASK THE EXPERTS

Ten Tips for Parents about Children and Divorce

by Jennifer McIntosh, Ph.D., North Carlton, Victoria, Australia

Jennifer McIntosh is a clinical and developmental psychologist, therapist and researcher. She is the founding director of Family Transitions, a Melbourne-based center devoted to the study and treatment of family trauma, with a focus on child protection matters and high conflict divorce.

[Click here for her top ten tips...](#)

FEATURED ARTICLE

The Mediation Industry: Our Time Has Come

by Jim Melamed, Courtesy of Mediate.com

Could the use of mediation be increasing during our difficult times? The answer by my direct day-to-day experience is absolutely "yes." Mediation has proven itself to be "better, faster and cheaper" and those marketplace qualities have come to matter more than ever.

[Read more...](#)

Featured Blogs and eNewsletters

There are so many informative family law Blogs and eNewsletters available. This month AFCC would like to feature several:

[Walzer & Melcher LLP](#), in southern California, are publishing an informative eNewsletter with case law and news articles about divorce and other aspects of family law.

Barbara Glesner Fines, Ruby M. Hulen Professor of Law at the University of Missouri, Kansas City edits the [Family Law Prof Blog](#), which provides family law resources, information and news for the academic community.

Richard Gould-Saltman, in southern California, writes the [Family Law Guy Blog](#) including news, views and ruminations.

Annette Burns, a family lawyer in Phoenix, Arizona helping people find a way through relationship dispute issues, writes a Blog called [Hey Annette](#) about family law issues.

If you write a family law blog or eNewsletter, or read a particularly informative and/or entertaining one, please let AFCC know at editor@afccnet.org.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Courtesy of Economist.com

International marriages are crumbling with the global economy, revealing unseen pitfalls in cross-border divorce law. Good news

Chicago, Illinois

Parenting Coordination: Advanced Practice and Skills

Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D.

June 24-25, 2009

Chicago, Illinois

AFCC Chapters

Massachusetts Chapter Annual Conference

April 3, 2009

Regis College

Weston, Massachusetts

www.maafccnet.org

Ontario Chapter Annual Conference

April 3, 2009

130 West Event Center

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

www.afccnet.org

Minnesota Chapter Annual Conference

April 24, 2009

St. Paul Campus

University of Minnesota

St. Paul, Minnesota

www.afccnet.org

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ABOUT AFCC eNEWS

for lawyers.... Marriages that thrive on money may wither with thrift. That is a depressing lesson from the world economic crisis, which has brought a surge in business for divorce lawyers in former boomtowns such as London and New York.

[Read more...](#)

Other Conferences of Interest

The American Bar Association Family Law Section Spring CLE Conference will take place at the Hilton Baltimore in Maryland, April 22-25, 2009. Program sessions will cover topics such as: alimony, alternative dispute resolution, child support, domestic violence, ethics, international law, marital property, reasonable compensation, recession issues, taxation, and trial practices and techniques. Some of these sessions are produced in cooperation with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. ABA FLS is also pleased to present a special track of programming on assisted reproductive technologies. For more information about the conference or to register, visit the [ABA Web site](#).

AFCC Regional Training Conference Call for Presenters

AFCC is accepting workshop proposals for the Regional Training Conference, *Interventions for Family Conflict: Stacking the Odds in Favor of Children*, November 5-7, 2009, in Reno, Nevada. Proposals are now being accepted for three-hour training workshops on interventions for family conflict. The conference will have individual tracks for judges, mediators, legal professionals, custody evaluators, and parenting coordinators. Workshops should combine a focus on skill-development and theory that can be incorporated into practice.

[More information...](#)

[Submit a proposal...](#)

AFCC eNEWS is a monthly e-newsletter published by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC). *AFCC eNEWS* provides professionals with time sensitive and up-to-date topics including practice tips, research innovations and international news.
[AFCC eNEWS archive...](#)

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Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Are a Bad Combination

Courtesy of J.M. Craig Press, Inc.

Herrenkohl, T.I., Sousa, C., Tajima, E. A., Herrenkohl, R. C., and Moylan, C. A. [2008]. Intersection of Child Abuse and Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence. Trauma, Violence, and Abuse, 9, 84 - 99.

We have reviewed a number of articles that evaluated the impact of domestic violence on children [See Digests: 5, 4; 6, 6; 7, 5 & 7; and 8, 5, 8, & 9]. This review article captures a large number of additional factors that may contribute to better and worse outcomes and helps us understand just how complex this issue can be.

The authors found that:

Of those persons who experienced child abuse or domestic violence in their homes, between 41% and 57%, depending on the study, said that they had experienced both. In a related study, the authors reported that when children lived in homes where there was domestic violence, the children were 3 to 9 times more likely to also have been abused. A variety of factors were found to contribute to these problems. They included poverty, parental unemployment, substance abuse, and a criminal history.

The adverse outcomes are similar. They include depression, isolation, anxiety, greater delinquency, school problems, and subsequent victimization. On the other hand, the authors found a variety of factors that helped children cope and mitigated their mistreatment. These included higher IQ, better self image, the presence of one stable caretaker, greater levels of independence, peer disapproval of parental maltreatment, religious involvement, and a determination not to act as their abusive parent had.

Unfortunately, the mitigating factors did not have the influence one would have hoped. While it was true that these factors helped, they did not overcome the impact of the mistreatment that the children suffered.

Critical Analysis

This is a literature review of 119 articles that the authors selected from over 500 published works. This large number of studies adds weight to their findings. On the other hand, most literature reviews involve selecting studies based on a rather specific list of criteria that must be met for inclusion. Such a process improves the reliability of the findings, but this study did not do that. As a result it captures more scholarly work, but the findings may be less reliable.

Recommendations

Many of our readers may not be familiar with a body of work often referred to as resilience. This established work looks at the factors that may help children cope with adversity. It is important to know this information so as to not assume that all victims will grow up and suffer from the list of

horrors noted above. On the other hand, child mistreatment has long and deleterious effects that are not easily overcome no matter how resilient a child may be.

This is a literature review and as such, it adds no new knowledge. We reviewed it because it contains a wealth of information and provides a easy reference for those who need to find this information quickly.

For this as well as other valuable research visit J.M. Craig Press online at www.jmcraig.com or call (877) 960-1474. AFCC members receive a 25% discount on all J.M. Craig Products.

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ASK THE EXPERTS

Ten Tips for Parents About Children and Divorce

by Jennifer McIntosh, Ph.D., North Carlton, Victoria, Australia

1. Parents have a large influence on children's divorce outcomes

To a great extent, your child's outcomes after divorce are in your hands. That's the good news, and the challenging news as well. The way you go about divorce will make a difference to your children's ability to cope with the family separation, as well as their long term well-being.

2. Warmth, availability and emotional safety

It's important during and following divorce for parents to be available and responsive to their children. That means warm, real time parenting, not good time over-compensating. Let your children know you are willing to hear about all of their feelings – not just the ones that feel good or seem fair.

3. Doing the emotional work

Being available to your children means clearing a space in your own mind for thinking clearly about them. Sadness, anger or confusion are normal and necessary emotions for children as well as parents after divorce. Adjustment and working it through is what matters.

4. Keeping it predictable

Just like before divorce, infants and children after separation need predictability, routines, practical support, and emotional scaffolding from Mom and Dad. They need parents to stay attuned and be responsive to their needs. Make sure your parenting arrangements enable this to happen.

5. Cleaning up the conflict

Parents may take awhile to sort through the conflict that came with the separation. Get all the support you need to sort it through as early as possible and go back to your mediator or counsellor for "tune-ups" as needed. While you are in the thick of parenting decisions and settlements, your children shouldn't be. Reassure them you are working to resolve things.

6. Divorcing your spouse, not your child's other parent

Building a parenting alliance with your ex partner is crucial to your child's emotional security after separation. That doesn't mean being best friends, but it does mean agreeing on how to communicate safely and effectively about your child's needs. Enlist the support of a good mediator if that is hard to achieve on your own.

7. Don't drag it out

The longer parents' take to build an alliance and resolve their disputes, the more energy a child has to use to cope with strain and stress in the family. That can drain a child of energy they need to get on with their normal development: learning, building their identity and esteem, having good friendships, and achieving their goals.

8. Legal advice versus legal action

Many parents benefit from the advice of lawyers, to inform them about their rights and responsibilities in making parenting plans and resolving

financial settlements. Be aware that getting legal advice is very different from taking legal action. Adversarial processes are necessary for a small percent of the population who have serious risks and issues that cannot be resolved otherwise. Research shows that engaging in court can do further and long term damage to your relationship with the child's other parent. Take good legal advice, but try to minimize the need for legal action.

9. Letting your children have a safe voice

Research also shows it can be beneficial for everyone if children are given safe opportunities, free from loyalty burdens, to express how things are for them, and for their parents to better understand that. This is very different from asking children to make decisions – never a good idea. Some court and mediation programs have specially trained social science professionals who can assist with safely including children's views in your planning for post divorce life.

10. Permission and support for safe relationships with both parents

Despite the acrimony that many parents feel for each other during the divorce process, most children want to keep their relationships with each parent and need support to do that. Loyalty conflicts are common when children see and feel a lack of respect and cooperation between their parents. Worse still is the child who survives emotionally by distancing one parent in order to keep sides with the other. Effective management of the adult emotions involved means everything for children's well-being, especially their need to preserve supportive relationships with both parents.

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