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AFCC 16th Symposium on Child Custody

Shaping the Future: Screening and Assessing for Safety and Wellbeing of Parent-Child Relationships

November 14-16, 2024
Columbus, Ohio
Hilton Columbus Downtown

[Register now](#) for our 16th Symposium on Child Custody!

[Register Now](#)

Earn Up to 18 Hours of Continuing Education Credit!

Psychologists, mental health professionals, lawyers, mediators, counselors, social workers, parenting coordinators, and other family law professionals have the opportunity to earn up to 18 hours of credit by attending the symposium and a pre-symposium institute. See the [brochure](#) for additional information.

Pre-Symposium Institutes

This conference will offer four full-day institutes that will allow attendees to do a deep-dive into one of the topics below:

1. Advanced Parenting Plan Evaluations
2. Advanced Orientation Improves Ecological Validity in PPEs
3. Advanced Issues in Mediation
4. No Professional is an Island: How to Effectively (or successfully) Coordinate Multiple Roles in Family Court Proceedings

Symposium Scholarships

If you would like to attend this conference, but the cost of registration is a bit out of range, consider [applying for a scholarship](#) to attend this event for free. Travel and hotel costs are not included.

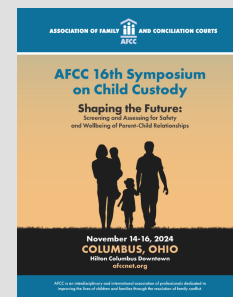
August 2024
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AFCC Conferences

AFCC 16th Symposium on Child Custody

November 14-16, 2024

Columbus, OH



Conference Sponsor
[Soberlink](#)

Exhibitor
USDTL
Parenting Plan Builder
The Center for Divorce Education

AFCC 62nd Annual Conference

May 28-31, 2025
New Orleans, LA

AFCC Online Training Programs

[The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination](#)
December 2-5, 2024

Save the Date:

[Parent Child Contact Problems](#)
January 13-16, 2025

[The Fundamentals of Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations](#)
March 10-13 and
March 17-19, 2025

Book Your Hotel Room

Make your reservations today! The Hilton Columbus Downtown is offering a special room rate to AFCC attendees of \$194 per night for single/double occupancy. [Book your room.](#)

Exhibit at the Symposium

Have an exciting product or service that family law professionals could benefit from? With over 400 family law professionals expected to attend, this conference is the perfect place to display your service or product! [Sign up now](#) to exhibit at the symposium.

[Register Now!](#)

Sponsored by



SOBERLINK

Ask the Experts

A Focus on the Changing Landscape of Parent Education Programming for Divorcing and Separating Parents

Anthony J. Ferraro, PhD



Understanding what works and for whom is a primary goal of many researchers, practitioners, and educators working in the divorce education space. Over the years the number of and diversity of divorce education programs has expanded; however, we still have limited understanding of if these programs are

effective, in what ways they are effective, and what type of families should be receiving what type of programs.

[Continue Reading](#)

Webinar Corner

Co-Parent Coaching: Inspiring Transformation for Families

Amy Armstrong, MSW

September 11, 2024

1:00pm – 2:00pm Eastern Time (US/Canada)

Registration will close on September 10, 2024, at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada.

AFCC Chapter Conferences

AFCC Florida Annual Conference

September 11-13, 2024
Orlando, FL

AFCC Wisconsin Fall Educational Event

September 19, 2024
Delafield, WI

AFCC Utah Fall Conference

October 10-11, 2024
Salt Lake City, UT

AFCC Colorado Chapter Fall Conference

October 18-20, 2024
Breckenridge, CO

AFCC Maryland Annual Conference

October 23, 2024
Annapolis, MD

AFCC Texas Annual Conference

October 24-25, 2024
Austin, TX

AFCC Indiana Annual Conference

October 25, 2024
Indianapolis, IN

AFCC Ontario Annual Conference

October 24-25, 2024
Toronto, ON

AFCC Illinois Annual Conference

November 7, 2024
Chicago, IL

AFCC Arizona Annual Conference

January 24-26, 2025
Sedona, AZ

AFCC California Annual Conference

February 7-9, 2025
Costa Mesa, CA

Through co-parent coaching, parents have the opportunity to see themselves and their situation through a new lens. Through inquiry and feedback, coaches help parents take responsibility for a new narrative and try out new behaviors that invite transformational shifts in the co-parenting dynamic. This webinar serves as an introduction to co-parent coaching as a cutting-edge intervention for both simple and complex family situations.



Amy Armstrong, MSW has 25-years of experience serving parents as an educator and parent coach. Amy founded The Center for Family Resolution in 2015 to provide mediation, co-parent coaching and parenting coordination for court-ordered families in counties throughout the state of Ohio and beyond. In 2020 Amy joined the staff at the Delaware County, Ohio Domestic Relations Court where she serves as a family resource coordinator for parents and leads the co-parent coaching program.



Registration

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$50

Certificate of Attendance

Members: \$15

Non-members: \$20

[Register Now!](#)

More Upcoming Webinars!

See below for a comprehensive list of upcoming webinars:



Understanding Conflicted Family Systems through a Developmental Lens: How Do I Refuel?

Benjamin Garber, PhD

October 9, 2024



Affirming & Supporting LGBTQIA+ Youth & Families: From the Basics to Advanced Family Court Concerns, Part II

Lindsey Sank Davis, PhD, McKenzie Sheridan, MA, & Jesse Frieder, MEd

October 23, 2024



AFCC's DE&I webinars are free to attend. This webinar is the continuation of a two-part series. You can find the recording of the first part [here](#).



Ethical Decision-making in the Face of Competing Guidelines

Arnold Shienvold, PhD

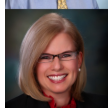
November 20, 2024



Cutting to the Chase Competently: Brief Focused Custody Assessment

Ken Perlmutter, PhD & Christy Bradshaw Schmidt, MA, LPC

December 12, 2024



AFCC's monthly webinars are eligible for one-hour of continuing education credits for qualifying professionals.

AFCC Online Training Programs

The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination

December 2-5, 2024

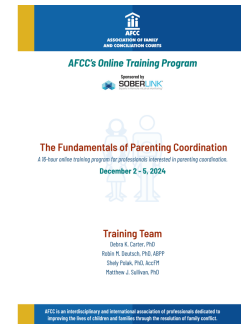
Interested in parenting coordination? Join AFCC in December for a program that will provide a comprehensive overview of the parenting coordination process, including definition of the role, responsibilities, and function of the parenting coordinator; an overview of family dynamics; specific PC strategies, techniques, and interventions; implications of intimate partner violence; cultural considerations; ethical issues; and use of technology.

Participants will learn about the parenting coordinator's scope of authority, strategies to help parents improve cooperation and communication, how to help clients utilize the process, and how to effectively write recommendations or decisions.

Training Team:

- Debra K. Carter, PhD
- Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP
- Shely Polak, PhD, AccFM
- Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD

[Register Now!](#)



Save the Date for Our Upcoming Trainings!

New this year! Parent Child Contact Problems

January 13-16, 2025

The Fundamentals of Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations

March 10-13 and March 17-19, 2025

Save the date for these online training programs! More information and registration will be posted to our [online training page](#).

AFCC 62nd Annual Conference

Bridging Perspectives: Pioneering Solutions in Family Law

May 28-31, 2025 | New Orleans, LA

Our work as family law professionals involves collaboration and differing perspectives across practices, sometimes harmoniously and other times with tension. AFCC stands at the forefront of innovative solutions to complex family issues. Join us in New Orleans as we convene the world's leading experts to build bridges that span the gaps between professional approaches and priorities. Participate in the pursuit of enduring solutions that address both age-old and emerging dilemmas in family law.



Call for Proposals

Present your unique perspective with a 90-minute workshop proposals. Please see the [Call for Proposals](#) for complete instructions and reach out to AFCC's Operation Administrator, [Kelly Bienfang](#), with any questions regarding your proposal.

[Submit a Proposal](#)

AFCC Member News



AFCC members from Australia, **Diana Bryant** and **Sally Nicholes** are pleased to announce as Chair and Deputy Chair of the World Congress on Family Law & Children's Rights Board that the call for papers for their 9th Family Law & Children's Rights Conference is now open! Click [here](#) for more information.



Trina Nudson, AFCC member from Kansas, has been making significant progress in establishing the Kansas chapter of AFCC. Trina has been involved in family law since the early 2000s and founded The Layne Project, a non-profit dedicated to offering child-centered support during family transitions, such as separation and divorce. Recently, The Layne Project launched BeH2O, a free 32-hour certification program designed to help participants "be water" and extinguish the flames of parental conflict. Congratulations, Trina!



Rachel Birnbaum, AFCC member from Ontario, has been appointed as the Co-Director of the Research Institute with Children (RIC) at King's University College, Western, London, Ontario.

With funding from both the federal and provincial governments, the Institute is a first of its kind in Canada that will be a purpose-built space designed with and for children to feel safe, respected, and heard in all aspects of civil society. It will be home to a range of innovative interdisciplinary research projects conducted by a team of scholars in partnership with organizations and institutions worldwide, using a variety of research methods designed to include children. The research will be shared widely with practitioners and policymakers, helping to transform policy and practice to improve the lives of children and their families and build better holistic support systems and institutions. Congratulations, Rachel!

Do you have any news you'd like to share? Contact AFCC's Communication Coordinator, [Patrick Sommer](#).

AFCC eNEWS

The *AFCC eNEWS* is the monthly e-newsletter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. The *eNEWS* provides up-to-date information for professionals including practice tips, international news, and the latest initiatives in family law and conflict resolution. The *AFCC eNEWS* is provided at no charge to you; anyone can [subscribe](#).

AFCC members are free to share eNEWS content.

EDITOR:

[Ann Ordway, JD, PhD](#)

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[Patrick Sommer, BS](#)

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Ask the Experts: A Focus on the Changing Landscape of Parent Education Programming for Divorcing and Separating Parents

Anthony J. Ferraro, PhD

August 2024

Vol 19 No. 8

Understanding what works and for whom is a primary goal of many researchers, practitioners, and educators working in the divorce education space. Over the years the number of and diversity of divorce education programs has expanded; however, we still have limited understanding of if these programs are effective, in what ways they are effective, and what type of families should be receiving what type of programs. In the [July, 2024 special issue of *Family Court Review*](#), we sought to explore these issues, compiling a selection of articles that focused on (1) the things that actually help parents in divorce education programming or the contexts that create barriers or help to amplify the benefits of programs, (2) what is known broadly about the effectiveness of divorce education programming, and (3) areas of innovation in the area of divorce education, meeting the needs of a growingly diverse set of parents.

Despite our desire to better understand the diversity of experiences for parents, it is important to note that many programs would fit under the distinction of universal programs (those that are designed to be taken by all parents or most parents with minor children seeking a divorce), and in many cases this is done through necessity based upon state policy, statutes, or decision-making undertaken at the state or local court level. Universal programs commonly share a set of common goals, such as to increase parents' capacity for coparenting quality and reduce their need for further litigation. In our paper (see [Ferraro et al., 2024](#)), we sought to explore a set of preexisting contextual factors and how they intersected with short-term programmatic goals that were shared across multiple programs. We leveraged aggregated data from multiple programs to be able to better generalize results. We found that perceptions of program utility were tied to intentions to cooperatively coparent; however, perceptions of utility were conditional based upon baseline perceptions of adjustment. What this means is that program effectiveness was not shared the same for all participants. Those that felt that they were already in a good place and had the skills necessary to deal with the divorce or separation did not see the same gains as those that started off in a less confident place.

Another interesting finding surrounded intentions to relitigate. The perceived effectiveness of the programs was not tied to intentions to relitigate, but rather pre-existing contextual considerations were the drivers of their perceived likelihood to work within the legal system to handle disputes. The presence of intimate partner violence and the nature of the coparenting relationship at baseline (what the relationship was like before they entered the program) were the biggest drivers of post-test intentions around relitigation. The results of the study demonstrate that programs do generally have the capacity to improve intentions around coparenting and to help shift

perceptions about participants' ability to navigate the divorce and separation. However, targeted reduced relitigation may be beyond what these programs can reasonably accomplish. There may be some benefit to considering tailored programming or triage for parents to better match their needs with specific parenting programs.

To learn more about this study and some of the other great work at the forefront of divorce education, please check out the special issue!



Anthony J. Ferraro, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Human Sciences at Kansas State University. His research focuses on family functioning during periods of transition with a focus on post-divorce coparenting relationships and evaluation of parent education programs. He can be reached at aferraro@ksu.edu for any follow up questions.