

# Alberta Family Mediation Society Newsletter

Edition 25: Dec 21, 2007

*Special points of interest:*

- We welcome your input about the newsletters and encourage you to submit articles and features

Wishing you and your family a joyous holiday season!

The Board and Staff of AFMS wish to extend their appreciation for the ongoing support of the membership In 2007.

Wishing you all the best for the New Year!

The AFCC 45th Annual Conference is scheduled for May 28-31/08 in BC. Mark your calendars.

The AFMS conference is scheduled for April 17 & 18, 2008. Don't forget to save the date. The online registration form and brochure will be on the website early January.

Charmaine has completed her term as volunteer newsletter editor. Please direct any AFMS newsletter submissions to Sue Bedier at the AFMS office contact.

## **AFMS Board of Directors**

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Gary Direnfeld wrote an interesting article in the recent FMC newsletter. He suggests the following strategies to help families cope with separation during the holiday season:

- Think about scheduling in advance and anticipate different options (e.g. alternating years)
- Encourage room for compromise
- Look for innovative or out of the box type solutions

Family Mediation Canada (Resolve 2007 Dec) also outlined the types of documents that should accompany children when they travel:

- permission to travel letter (including travel plans, itinerary, contact information)
- Birth certificate
- The article also mentioned that documents such as the separation agreement, divorce judgment, etc. might be requested

There is an Elder Mediation Conference in Ontario scheduled for May 7, 8 and 9/08. For more information, contact FMC.

There is a new resource (NCH) that provides practical information for children, young people and parents who are experiencing separation or divorce. For more information refer to the FMC newsletter or [www.itsnotyourfault.org](http://www.itsnotyourfault.org)

**Don't forget to mark your calendar for the upcoming AFMS conference– see page 1 for details.**

### **How to be a perfect stranger: a guide to etiquette in other people's religious ceremonies.**

This book by Sanford Jr. Cloud (forward and Arthur Magida (editor) focuses on 20 chapters devoted to different religions including (not limited to) Baptist, Buddhist, Quaker, Roman Catholic, Hindu, Islam, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Mormon, Christian Science and more. Each chapter begins with a brief introduction to the history and beliefs of the faith followed by a series of standard questions that detail basic service; holy days and festivals; life cycle events and home celebrations. Guests at religious celebrations of faiths other than their own often are unaware of customs, rituals, appropriate dress and gift giving practices. This book highlights questions and answers in a straightforward and non-judgmental manner. Representing a diversity of faiths, the guidelines to correct social behavior at religious ceremonies belongs on every mediator's bookshelf.

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Alberta family Mediation Society

*Advancing the practice of family mediation.*

***We're on the web—  
look us up!***

**About AFMS**

Established in 1984, the non-profit society provides services to family mediators.

The organization has a part time administrative assistant and is managed by a volunteer board of directors, with representatives across the province.

The society is dedicated to both professional and public education regarding family mediation.

Gratitude is the best attitude.  
~Author Unknown

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other. ~Author Unknown

One kind word can warm three winter months. ~Japanese proverb

Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, the mind can achieve.  
*Dr. Napoleon Hill*



Have a wonderful holiday season and wishing you a new year of joy, abundance and peace!