



AFMS is proud to present:
Meeting with Children: Edmonton, AB - January 24 to 27, 2018
Deadline to register: November 30, 2017



Meeting with Children

Skills for Family Law Professionals

Edmonton, AB January 24 to 27, 2018
Providence Renewal Centre,
3005 119 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T6J 5R5

In this course, Dr. Lorri Yassenik and Jon Graham explore the skills necessary to meet with post separation children and youth. The course is highly experiential providing many practice opportunities. The skills taught will add to the practitioner's tool box for work with children as well as work with parents who find it difficult to remain regulated in traditional ADR processes. Lorri, a child specialist and registered play therapist, family mediator, and Jon, a specialist in complex family mediation, bring an eclectic and varied skill set into this training.



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HEARING CHILDREN

The question is not WHETHER children should be heard, but rather *HOW TO* ensure children's voices are safely and effectively heard as part of an ADR process. A child-centred approach views the child as central to the family system, and provides strategies for working with parents to include the child's concerns.

The challenge that practitioners face is how and when to include children AND how to increase the readiness of the parents to hear their child's concerns.



COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify what it means to be child-centred when working with children and youth in separated families and in child protection environments
- Engage in directive and non-directive ways of meeting with children and understand metaphor and projection as ways children *tell* you about their lived worlds
- Identify the four levels of child involvement and the cases in which each level is most appropriate
- Apply a methodology for each of the four levels to compare and contrast the presentation of cases at each level
- Make use of the Child and Youth Concerns Scale and the Parenting Readiness Scale in practice
- Be able to effectively provide feedback to parents and other third parties
- Understand the ethical implications of child-centred practice, the challenges of employing a child-centred strategy, and the cost of employing traditional non child-centred strategies in family mediation





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COURSE CONTENT

Topics covered over 4 full days with theory and role play embedded each day

Topic 1: INTRODUCTION

- Why be child-centred?
- Overview of course

Topic 2: THEORETICAL OVERVIEW

- Introduction to the Child-centred Continuum Model
- Child involvement: decision making points
- Metaphor and simile
- Regulation from the top down

Topic 3: DEFINING ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS

- Meeting with children: Special considerations
- What role do you play?
- Coordination between professionals to increase effectiveness
- Ethical practice considerations

Topic 4: PRACTICE SKILLS: INQUIRY SKILLS FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

- Traditional interviewing vs. Child focussed meetings
- Phases of the interview process
- The skills of engaging and talking with children

Topic 5: PLAY BASED ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

- What are expressive and play-based activities?
- Developmental considerations
- Exploring metaphor: reading metaphors and making meaning
- Directive and non-directive approaches to meeting with children

Topic 6: AN APPROACH FOR MEETING WITH CHILDREN

- Tools you will need – Introduction to the tools
- 4-session approach to meeting with children
- Step by step process and procedure when meeting with children

Topic 7: PARENT READINESS AND THE CHILD AND YOUTH CONCERNS SCALE

- Gathering and organizing the information
- Using the Child and Youth Concerns Scale
- Ensuring parent readiness when providing feedback
- Skills in providing feedback

Topic 8: STRATEGIES FOR CHILD FOLLOW UP

- When and how to return to provide an update to children
- Skills in managing the process

Topic 9: PARENTING AGREEMENTS AND PARENTING PLANS

- Strategies for including children's input in parenting agreements
- Ethical/legal challenges



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WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Child Specialists
- Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners
- Family Court Report Writers
- Family Mediators
- Child and Family Counsellors
- Family/Collaborative Family Lawyers
- Independent Children's Lawyers

COST

Study two ways:

- Course with Certificate of Attendance only **\$1,250.00 plus GST**
- Course with Assessment Tasks and Feedback **\$1,500.00 plus GST**

PRESENTERS

Lorri Yasenik, Ph.D., RSW, CPT-S, RPT-S (Canada), RFM, RPCA



Lorri Yasenik is a Registered Family Mediator, Registered Parenting Coordinator, Registered Clinical Social Worker, Registered Play Therapist and Child Specialist based in Calgary, AB. Lorri provides child psychotherapy and play therapy and is the Co-Director of Rocky Mountain Play Therapy Institute. She delivers national and international training related to children's issues and specialized child psychotherapy and play therapy. Her doctorate dissertation was "Including the Voices of Children of Separation and Divorce in the Legal System".

Jon Graham, BA(Psych), B.Com, LLB, Grad Dip Family Dispute Res (Australia)



Jon Graham is a Registered Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (Family Mediator) based in Sydney, Australia. Jon has qualifications in law, psychology and commerce as well as post-graduate qualifications in Family Mediation. Jon combines over 20 years of clinical experience with families affected by separation and divorce with a substantial training calendar across Australia. Jon is the Clinical Director of the Institute of Specialist Dispute Resolution, a provider of tailored family dispute resolution processes for families presenting with complex issues. The Institute also provides training and clinical supervision for mediators in Australia.