

## **Laurie Stein LLB, MSW, RSW**

Connections - Child and Family Counselling  
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### **Professional Experience**

2006 - **Therapist/Mediator/Collaborative Family Professional - Connections - Child and Family Counselling**

Current

Private practice working with individuals, families, children and youth. Work includes individual, couple, play therapy, mediation and collaborative family professional. Expertise working with families experiencing separation, divorce and blending, and child and adolescent development and behaviour.

1995-2006 **Social Worker, Families in Transition, Family Service Association (Toronto)**

Provide individual and group counselling for parents, children and youth on issues of separation, divorce and remarriage. Included in this work is individual therapy, parent-child work, play therapy, couple counselling and mediation. A significant part of this work involves the exploration of appropriate boundaries, communication and methods of conflict resolution. Conduct workshops on child support, step-parenting and the separation process. Also was the Co-Principal Investigator of a study addressing the needs of Iranian families facing separation and divorce in Toronto.

1993-1995 **Project Co-ordinator, For Kids' Sake Program, Family Court Clinic, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (formerly the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry), Toronto**

Developed and implemented a pilot project designed to treat and resolve high conflict family separations and divorces. Clinical work included assessments, group and individual therapy with children and parents, and mediation of child focused issues. Project responsibilities included co-ordinating the program, community outreach and liaising with the relevant community organizations.

1993 **Social Worker, Families in Transition, Family Service Association (Palo Alto, California)**

Co-facilitated groups for children of high conflict, divorcing families. Focused on issues of adjustment, loss, coping and family violence. Also facilitated community consultation groups on reform of California divorce and custody legislation, and consulted on law reform issues.

1992-93 **Research Clinician, Center for the Family in Transition (Corte Madera, California)**

Worked on two projects. The first involved assessment and treatment of high conflict and high risk divorcing families that have experienced violence. The second project involved investigating, interviewing, and assessing families where a parental kidnapping had occurred in the context of divorce.

1989-91 **Counsel, The Children's Lawyer, Ministry of the Attorney General (Toronto)**

Independent representations of children and youth, including court appearances, mediation and facilitating settlement discussions, and relevant research in the areas of child protection and administrative law.

### **Education**

1994 Master of Social Work, University of Toronto

1990 Called to the Ontario Bar

1988 Bachelor of Laws, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

1985 Bachelor of Social Work, McGill University.  
Graduated with "Great Distinction".  
James McGill Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement (1983-85)  
University Scholar (1982-85)

### **Additional Training**

- Attended Multiple Narrative Workshops (Traumatized Children, Bereavement, Community Justice, Women and Domestic Violence, Children and Anxiety, Adolescents and Depression, Navigating Life Transitions) 2005 - 2015
- Attended Collaborative Practice Training Levels I and II: 2008 and 2009
- Attended Collaborative Training IACP Annual International Conferences

- Attended Narrative Therapy: Summer Intensive 2007

### **Presentations**

- Trainer with the Toronto Collaborative Training Team 2015-16
- Guest lecturer at Collaborative Family Law Course, Osgoode Hall 2012-2013
- Co-Facilitated Avoiding Impasse at International Association of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) Chicago 2012
- Co-Facilitated Avoiding Impasse at Ontario Association of Collaborative Professionals Barrie, Ontario 2012
- Co-Facilitated workshops at Collaborative Practice Toronto 2010-2015.

### **Publications**

- 2004            “Reconnecting with Absent Parents: A Model of Intervention” *Family Court Review*, 42, 439-59 (with Freeman, R., Abel, D. and Cowper-Smith, M.)
- 2002            “Transitions: Meeting the Needs of Iranian Families Facing Separation and Divorce”, Toronto: Family Service Association (with Dilmaghani, S.)
- 1995            “For Kids Sake Manual: Intervention for High Conflict Divorcing Families ,” Toronto: Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, Family Court Clinic.
- 1994            “Children in Diverse Families” *The Social Worker*, 62(2) (with Goldberg, K. and Gaber, S.)