

Linda Popielarczyk, MSW, RSW, Acc.FM (OAFM)
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Connections Child and Family Counselling, 1903 Queen St. East, 1st Flr, Toronto (previously, 586 Eglinton Ave E, Suite 301, Toronto): **Private practice** offering a range of clinical services for individuals, couples and families, with specialized services for separating and divorcing families including mediation of parenting plans, multi-faceted family therapy, parenting plan assessments and parenting coordination — February 2006 to present — Refer to www.connectionschildandfamily.com

Families Moving Forward: Multi-day interventions for separated families where a child is resisting or refusing contact with a parent. These court-ordered interventions serve to kick-start necessary changes within family dynamics, promoting healthier post-separation parent-child and coparent relationships — 2012 to 2020 — Refer to www.familiesmovingforward.ca

Child and Adolescent Ambulatory Health Services, North York General Hospital: Social Worker on Developmental Team. Services were provided to families with children diagnosed with developmental differences such as Autism Spectrum Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Consultation was provided to the multidisciplinary developmental team on the issues for separating and divorcing families, and a range of other psychosocial issues — January 1990 to September 2009

High Conflict Forum, Toronto: Faculty Member of the **High Conflict Curriculum**, “Children Caught in the Crossfire”. This two-day curriculum was presented in sites across Ontario and in Quebec to multidisciplinary professionals from the mental health, legal, and child welfare sectors, all working with high conflict separating and divorcing families — August 2009 to 2014

Toronto Advanced Professional Education (TAPE), in affiliation with the Continuing Education Division of St. Michael’s College, University of Toronto: Instructor of **Child-Focused Parenting Plans** and **Working with Blended Families** — 2008, 2009, 2010

Families in Transition, Family Services of Toronto: Contract Social Worker. Specialized therapeutic services were provided to separating and divorcing families — 2001 to 2006

Private Practice: Provided individual, couple and family therapy; mediation; and custody and access assessments — 1989 to 1992

Family Court Clinic, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (then known as The Clarke Research Institute of Psychiatry): Clinical Social Worker. Provided court-ordered clinical

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assessments ordered under the Children's Law Reform Act, the Child and Family Services Act, and the Young Offenders Act — 1984 to 1988

Family and Children's Services of Haldimand and Norfolk, Simcoe, Ontario: Child Protection Social Worker. Provided family services and child protection —1980 to1983

EDUCATION

- Master of Social Work, June 1984, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario

Recipient of John McCrory Fellowship, Open University of Toronto, 1983-1984

Recipient of Ray Godfrey Award, Faculty of Social Work, 1984

- Bachelor of Social Work, 1980, King's College, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario: Dean's Honor List

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Family Arbitration Bi-Annual Update on Power Imbalances and Family Violence in Arbitration and Parenting Coordination: Ten (10) hour training in Toronto, Ontario — January 2014, January 2016, January 2018 and 2020; and, conducted virtually in 2022.

Screening for Power Imbalances: Update: An 8-10-hour workshop offered by Ms. Hilary Linton, Toronto, Ontario — June 2012, January 2018

Family Law Training for Mediators, Arbitrators, and Parenting Coordinators, March 2015, (Originally taken in April/May 2008) — A 30-hour course family law course, Toronto, Ontario

Advanced Family Mediation Training: A 40-hour OAFM approved program offered by the Mediation Centre, Barrie, Ontario — January 2014

Parenting Coordination, Advanced Applications: A 15-hour course focused on arbitration in the context of Parenting Coordination, offered by Dr. Barbara Fidler and Ms. Linda Chodos in Toronto, Ontario — April 2012

Overcoming Barriers Family Camp: Intensive intervention training (Drs. Robin Deutsch and Matthew Sullivan) within the context of a 6-day family systems intervention for families in which a child is resisting a relationship with a parent — Vermont, July 2010

The Fundamentals of Family Arbitration, a two-day course conducted by Ms. Hilary Linton, Lawyer, Mediator/Arbitrator, Accredited Family Mediator in Toronto, Ontario — May 2010

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Collaborative Practice Training, Level II: A three-day course covering the guiding principles, professional roles, and team process of the collaborative family law model, Toronto, Ontario — February 2010

Advanced Mediation Training: A three-day course presented by Ms. Hilary Linton, Toronto, Ontario — May 2009

Collaborative Practice Training, Level I: A 15-hour course on the process of collaborative family practice, Toronto, Ontario — November 2008

Family Law Training for Mediators, Arbitrators, and Parenting Coordinators: A 30-hour course family law course, Toronto, Ontario — April/May 2008

Domestic Violence Training for Mediators, Arbitrators and Parenting Coordinators: A 15-hour course, Barrie, Ontario — December 2007

Parenting Coordination: A 14-hour course offered by Dr. Barbara Jo Fidler and Ms. Linda Chodos, Toronto, Ontario — October 2006

Externship in Family Therapy (Advanced Program), The George Hull Centre for Children and Families, Etobicoke, Ontario — January to May 1992

Advanced Training in Marital Therapy, The George Hull Centre for Children and Families, Etobicoke, Ontario — January to March 1991

Advanced Mediation Skills, Continuing Education Division, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario — December 1987

PUBLICATION

Polak, S., Altobelli, T. and Popielarczyk, L. (2020), Responding to Severe Parent–Child Rejection Cases Without a Parentectomy: A Blended Sequential Intervention Model and the Role of the Courts. *Family Court Review*, 58: 507-524. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fcre.12496>

PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC-O)**, board member and co-chair of the Communications Committee and chair of the High Conflict Working Group — October 2014 to 2017
- Member of the Provincial Planning Committee of the **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Ontario (AFCCO)**, developing user-friendly curricula to support the professional education needs of members and facilitate recruitment

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of new members living in communities outside of the GTA. September 2008—May 2015

- Member of the **High Conflict Forum**, an interagency/interprofessional collaboration of those working with separating and divorcing families with high conflict dynamics, focused on promoting collaboration and cooperation; developing standards of practice; and, defining 'high conflict' in the context of separation and divorce. February 2004—2016
- Member of the **High Conflict Research Subcommittee**, an interprofessional subcommittee mandated by the High Conflict Forum to clarify the definition of 'high conflict' within the context of separation/divorce. This subcommittee developed a clinical tool to assess the factors and dimensions of conflict, which contribute to separation/divorce conflict, the focus of research led by Dr. Rachel Birnbaum.
- Member and Chairperson of the **Conference Planning Subcommittee** of the High Conflict Forum, responsible for a range of conferences featuring keynote speakers to include Dr. Jean Clinton, Professor Nicholas Bala, Bill Eddy (It's All Your Fault...Managing High Conflict People Within a Legal and Clinical Context), Richard Warshak (Divorce Poison), and Matthew Sullivan. 2006—present

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Untangling High Conflict in Alienation and Family Violence Matters — An Overview, S. Polak & **L. Popielarczyk**. Continuing Professional Education, Law Society of Ontario, September 2022.

Pulling it All Together: A Case Study, **L. Popielarczyk**, guest lecturer, Children Resisting Post-Separation Contact: Concepts, Controversy, Assessment and Interventions, May 6, 2021 & 2022.

Your Challenging Family Law Client: The Back Story, J. Gold & **L. Popielarczyk**, guest lecturer. The Osgoode Certificate in Family Law Skills and Practice, Osgoode-York Professional Development Program, February 2022 & March 2023.

Cases Involving Severe Resist-Refuse Dynamics: A Time to Say Goodbye... For Now? **L. Popielarczyk**, T. Altobelli & B. J. Fidler. Association of Family and Conciliation Courts International, Annual General Conference, June 2021.

Tools for Addressing Internet Abuse in Parenting Cases (panelist), at *Staying Connected in a Changing World*, Association of Family & Conciliation Courts, Ontario Chapter, Annual Conference, October 17, 2020.

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Responding to Severe Parent-Child Rejection Cases Without a Parentectomy, S. Polak & **L. Popielarczyk**. Association of Family and Conciliation Courts International, Webinar Series, July 2020.

The Many Ways of Parenting Coordination in Ontario (panelist). Family Dispute Resolution Institute of Ontario, November 20, 2019.

Child Custody and Access Assessments (panelist). The Advocates' Society, March 8, 2018.

Immersion Training on Family Intensive Interventions, presented as **a member of the Overcoming Barriers training team** lead by Drs. Robin Deutsch, Peggie Ward, and Barbara Jo Fidler. Dallas, Texas. Overcoming Barriers, December 3 and 4, 2015.

The Future of Custody/Access Assessments, Children's Lawyer Reports, Child Legal Representation, and Voice of the Child Reports, (panelist). The Law Society of Upper Canada, May 5, 2015.

Special Considerations for Special Needs Children, **Popielarczyk, L.**, Nicolson, R., Czutrin, Justice G., & Himel, A., London, Ontario. Association of Family & Conciliation Courts Ontario Chapter, Annual Conference, October 17, 2014.

Understanding Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders and the Implications for Parenting Plans, **Popielarczyk, L.**, Goldfarb, C., & Sussman, J. Toronto. Ontario Court of Justice, Judicial Development Institute, January 15, 2014.

Children Resisting Parental Contact Post-Separation, Polak, S., Fidler, B., & **Popielarczyk, L.** (2013). Los Angeles, CA. AFCC Annual General Conference May 28-June 1, 2013.

Reaching Out to Outreach Communities: An AFCC Ontario Chapter Initiative. Chicago, Illinois. AFCC Conference May 25th-May 28, 2012.

Custody and Access Assessments: Practice Issues and Risk Management, Toronto. Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Annual General Conference, Ontario Chapter, October 15, 2010.

Lessons Learned in Child Development: Families Living With Autism Spectrum Disorder. North York General Hospital, Toronto, 2011.

Working With Families of Children With High Functioning Autism and Asperger's. Hincks-Dellcrest Treatment Centre, Toronto, 2010.

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders from the Family Perspective. Hincks-Dellcrest Treatment Centre, Toronto, 2010.

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AWARDS

Distinguished Service Award, Association of Family & Conciliation Courts, Ontario Chapter — October 2012

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION and ASSOCIATIONS

Accredited Family Mediator, Ontario Association of Family Mediators (OAFM), 2012--present

Registered member of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers, June 1982—present

Ontario Association of Professional Social Workers, 1979 to present

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), 2006 to present

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Ontario Chapter, 2006 to present

- Board Member, 2014 to 2017
- Co-Chair of Communications (Newsletter & Website) and Chair of High Conflict Working Group

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