

## **LINDA POPIELARCZYK**

**MSW, RSW, Acc.FM (OAFM)**

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### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Connections Child and Family Counselling**, 586 Eglinton Ave E, Suite 301, Toronto: **Private practice** offering a range of counselling options to support individuals and families, with specialized services for separating and divorcing families including mediation of parenting plans, family-focused therapy, custody and access assessments and parenting coordination. Launched February 2006; refer to [www.connectionschildandfamily.com](http://www.connectionschildandfamily.com).

**Families Moving Forward**: A multi-day intervention for separated families when a child is resisting or refusing contact with a parent. Families Moving Forward is an early intervention program and a kick-start to shifting family alignments and dynamics, promoting meaningful change and rebuilding healthier post-separation family relationships. Refer to [www.familiesmovingforward.ca](http://www.familiesmovingforward.ca).

**Child and Adolescent Ambulatory Health Services, North York General Hospital**: Social Worker on Developmental Team providing services to families with children diagnosed with developmental differences such as Autism Spectrum Disorder; and, providing consultation to the multidisciplinary developmental team on the issues for separating and divorcing families, and a range of other psychosocial issues, January 1990—September 09.

**High Conflict Forum**, Toronto: **Faculty member of the High Conflict Curriculum**, “Children Caught in the Crossfire”. This two-day curriculum is taught 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 providing specialized therapeutic services to separating and divorcing families, 2001—2006.

**Private Practice**: Providing individual, couple and family intervention; mediation; and custody and access assessments, 1989—1992.

**Family Court Clinic**, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (then known as The Clarke Research Institute of Psychiatry): Social Worker providing court-ordered clinical assessments ordered under the Children’s Law Reform Act, the Child and Family Services Act, and the Young Offenders Act, 1984—1988.

**Family and Children’s Services of Haldimand and Norfolk**, Simcoe, Ontario: Social Worker in child welfare providing family services and child protection, 1980—1983.

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## **EDUCATION**

- Masters 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 Law Training for Mediators, Arbitrators, and Parenting Coordinators, March 2015, (Originally taken in April/May 2008): 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

Family Arbitration Ongoing Training Certificate: A 10-hour training offered by Mr. Philip Epstein, Dr. Peter Jaffe, and Mr. Alfred Mamo, Toronto, Ontario: January 2014

Screening for Power Imbalances: Update: A 10-hour workshop offered by Ms. Hilary Linton, Toronto, Ontario; June 2012

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

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

Advanced Mediation Training: A three-day course coordinated 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, April/May 2008: A 30-hour course family law course, Toronto, Ontario

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

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

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

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

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

## **PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- The **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC-O)**, board member and co-chair of the Communications Committee, October 2014—present
- 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 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 high conflict separating and divorcing families, focused on promoting collaboration and cooperation; developing standards of practice; and, defining 'high conflict' in the context of separation and divorce. February 2004—present
- 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. It has been the focus of research lead by Dr. Rachel Birnbaum. February 05—present
- 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

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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/Voice of the Child Reports, member of panel moderated by Mary-Jo Maur. Toronto (Law Society of Upper Canada, May 5, 2015).

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

Understanding Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders and the Implications for Parenting Plans, **Popielarczyk, L.**, Goldfarb, C., & Sussman, J. (2014). 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 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 (Annual Conference of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Ontario Chapter, October 15, 2010).

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

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

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

Parental Alienation. Paper presented to the Association for Optimal Infant and Child Development, Toronto.

The Effects of Separation and Divorce on Children. Paper presented to the Association for Optimal Infant and Child Development, Toronto.

## **AWARDS**

Distinguished Service Award, Association of Family & Conciliation Courts, 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 present
- Co-Chair of Communications & Website

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**REFERENCES**

Available upon request  
Updated December 2015