

# AFCC eNEWS



Improving the lives of children and families  
through the resolution of family conflict



October 2021  
VOL. 16 No. 10

## IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Message
- AFCC Fall Conference
- Ask the Experts
- AFCC Training Programs
- Webinar Corner
- 59th Annual Conference

### President's Message

*Mindy Mitnick, AFCC President*

#### Yes! No! Yes!

I am, by nature, a joyful person. I was joyful as a toddler when my grandpa visited and pulled a shiny penny from his pocket. When I was in college and taught ballet to children in the community, I was joyful. And when I returned from my first AFCC conference in Arizona, I was joyful.

I said Yes! and could not wait for the next opportunity to have an AFCC experience.

AFCC has always represented Yes! to me. [Read more.](#)

**Join Us in Cincinnati Next Month for the AFCC Fall Conference!**

### AFCC Fall Conference

*November 11-13, 2021  
Cincinnati, Ohio*

### AFCC Online Training Programs

*The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination  
Nov. 29 - Dec. 2*

*Advanced Issues for Family Law and Dispute*

## AFCC Fall Conference

### ***Unmuting the Voices of Children and Families: Can You Hear Me Now?***

*In collaboration with the Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges and the Ohio Association of Magistrates*

November 11-13, 2021  
Cincinnati Netherland Plaza  
Cincinnati, OH

## Safety Protocols and Health Considerations

AFCC is proceeding with the Fall Conference in Cincinnati, November 11-13, 2021, as an in-person event. There are currently no state or local restrictions; however, AFCC will adhere to the health and safety protocols similar to many theater, concert, and dining venues that require **all attendees to show proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID test taken within 72 hours of the event.**

Attendees will also be required to wear masks when not eating or drinking, and hotel staff members will also be masked. Regrettably, there will be no hospitality suite.

We understand that travel and interacting with others is a personal decision and respect each person's choice. For those who are not yet ready to travel or convene, we encourage you to consider registering for any of the following programs being offered virtually this fall. Visit the [AFCC website](#) for a list of programs available online.

## Visit the Conference Portal

The [conference portal](#) is your home for information about the AFCC Fall Conference.

- Read about all [conference sessions](#).
- Learn about [continuing education](#) credit applications in progress and how to obtain a certificate.
- Check [conference information](#) for hotel information, safety protocols, and more.
- Peruse the [conference brochure](#).
- View [conference sponsors and exhibitors](#) or sign up to promote your business.
- [Register](#) for the conference!

## Hotel Reservations

A special rate of **\$147/night for single or double occupancy** is available exclusively to AFCC attendees. [Make your reservation online](#) or call 1-800-HILTONS (800-445-8667), ask for Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, and request the group code **AFCC**. Any unreserved rooms in the AFCC block will be released on October 21, 2021; the group rate will not be guaranteed after that date.

*Resolutions  
Professionals  
Dec. 6-7, 2021*

---

## AFCC 59th Annual Conference

*Chicago, Illinois  
May 11-14, 2022*

[Save the date!](#)

---

## AFCC Chapter Conferences & Webinar Series

### Illinois Chapter Annual Conference

October 22, 2021  
Being held virtually

### Arizona Chapter Annual Conference

January 21-23, 2022  
Sedona, Arizona

### Colorado Chapter Annual Conference

February 4-5, 2022  
Being held virtually

### California Chapter Annual Conference

February 4-6, 2022  
San Francisco, California

### Texas Chapter Annual Conference

October 28-29, 2022  
[Save the date!](#)

---

## Exhibitors Welcome!

The Fall Conference gives exhibitors the first opportunity to interact with AFCC attendees face-to-face in over two years!

[Read the prospectus](#) and contact Gina Wentling at [gwentling@afccnet.org](mailto:gwentling@afccnet.org) or 608-664-3750 for more information.

Sign up now!

[Register now!](#)

## AFCC Online Training Programs Return Next Month!

AFCC is pleased to offer a comprehensive parenting coordination (PC) training, conducted online by a team of leading international practitioners and trainers. Join us for two comprehensive training programs later this year!

### The training team includes:

- Debra K. Carter, PhD
- Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP
- Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA
- Shely Polak, PhD
- Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD

### The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination

**November 29, 2021 - December 2, 2021**

[Register now!](#)

This 16-hour training program is based on the 2019 AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Coordination and the Recommendations for Comprehensive Training of Parenting Coordinators. The program will take place in two segments per day, two hours each. Recordings of all sessions will be available for registrants.

### Advanced Issues for Family Law and Dispute Resolution Professionals

December 6-7, 2021

[Register now!](#)

This program addresses the challenges often associated with the most intractable family disputes, including intimate partner violence, parent-child contact problems (including parental alienation), the voice of the child, and providing virtual services. The program takes place in two segments per day, two hours each. Registration includes access to recordings of all training program sessions.

[Read the brochure](#) for more information!

## Ask the Experts

### Ask the Expert: Tips for Professionals Helping Parents Protect Their Children from the Negative Effects of Conflict

*Irwin Sandler, Karey O'Hara, Sharlene Wolchik, and David Weinstock*

Interparental conflict is arguably the most impactful risk factor for poor child outcomes following divorce. It increases children's risk for a wide range of problems including mental health problems and disorders, substance use, high-risk sexual behavior, and academic problems. Helping parents reduce interparental conflict is one of the most stressful and difficult, but important, challenges for helping professionals. If you are engaged in this work, these tips are for you. [Read more.](#)

## AFCC Webinar Corner

### Parent-Child Contact Problems: NCJFCJ and AFCC Working Toward Common Ground

Hon. Ramona Gonzalez and Matthew Sullivan, PhD

November 17, 2021 | 1:00-2:00pm Eastern Time US/Canada

Registration closes on November 16, 2021 at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada.

The leadership of the NCJFCJ and the AFCC have been working for more than a year on fashioning a joint statement on children's resistance/refusal to have contact with a parent. This inter-organizational collaboration was undertaken to help address some of the controversies and conundrums in the family justice field that adversely impact our ability to intervene to protect the health and well-being of families, particularly children. The constructive conversation we hope to have in the field may lead to filling in the gaps of training and resources for court professionals. This webinar will highlight where we are in the process of this collaborative effort and highlight the salient points we are stressing in this statement to help professionals move to more common ground.

**Hon. Ramona A. Gonzalez** is the presiding judge in La Crosse County, Wisconsin. She was first elected as a circuit judge in 1995 and re-elected in 2001, 2007, 2013 and 2019. Born in the Dominican Republic, Judge Gonzalez is a highly sought expert on family law issues, specializing in particular on national and international matters relating to child custody, domestic violence and civil child abduction. Judge Gonzalez is the 2019-20 President of the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and a national trainer on domestic violence issues.

**Matthew Sullivan, PhD**, has been in private practice in Palo Alto, California, specializing in forensic and clinical work in the Family Courts, for over 30 years. He is a pioneer in the development of Parenting Coordination role internationally and trains family justice professionals about understanding and intervening in Parent-Child Contact problems in high conflict shared parenting arrangements. He was the President of AFCC, 2019-20. He is the co-founder of Overcoming Barriers, Inc., a non-profit organization that has developed a variety of innovative programs for high conflict shared custody arrangements.

**Registration**  
Members: \$15

**Certificate of Attendance**  
Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$50

Non-Members: \$20

Continuing education credit may be available for lawyers, judges, psychologists, social workers, counselors, and other professionals. [Learn more.](#)

[Register today!](#)

## Register Now for AFCC's December webinar!

### Unbundling Legal Services

Tami Moscoe, LLB, Lorna Yates, LLB

December 15, 2021 | 1:00-2:00pm Eastern Time US/Canada

[Register now!](#)

## Save the Date for the AFCC 59th Annual Conference in Chicago!

### The Use, Misuse, and Abuse of Technology in Family Law: Practical, Ethical, Safety, and Procedural Challenges

Chicago, Illinois

May 11-14, 2022

**Include AFCC in your plans for 2022!** Set aside May 11-14, 2022 (which is not Mother's Day weekend!) to attend the AFCC 59th Annual Conference at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile.

During the conference, you'll reconnect with colleagues, meet new people, earn continuing education credit, and learn from experienced, knowledgeable professionals. With meditation and yoga available, you can also work in some self-care! Do it for your professional development, your career, and yourself. We can't wait to see you there!

## Member News

**Bill Eddy**, AFCC member from San Diego, California, has written a new book, *Calming Upset People with EAR: How Statements Showing Empathy, Attention, and Respect Can Quickly Defuse a Conflict!* Bill is the co-founder and Chief Innovation Officer of the High Conflict Institute. He pioneered the High Conflict Personality Theory (HCP) and has become an expert on managing disputes involving people with high conflict personalities. Bill is also a frequent and popular presenter at AFCC conferences. Learn more about the new book [here](#). Congratulations, Bill!

**Do you have a notable achievement to share?** Email [Gina Wentling](#) with your story and a professional head shot or book image (PNG preferred), if you have one, to be featured in next month's Member News!

## **AFCC eNEWS**

The *AFCC eNEWS* is the monthly e-newsletter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. The *eNEWS* provides up-to-date information for professionals including practice tips, international news, and the latest initiatives in family law and conflict resolution. The *AFCC eNEWS* is provided at no charge to you; anyone can subscribe. [Subscribe here](#).

*AFCC members are free to share eNEWS content.*

### **EDITOR:**

[Ann Ordway, JD, PhD](#)

### **ASSOCIATE EDITOR:**

[Gina Wentling](#)