

Gary Direnfeld, MSW, RSW

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Courts in Ontario, Canada, consider Gary an expert on child development, parent-child relations, marital and family therapy, custody and access recommendations, social work and an expert for the purpose of giving a critique on a Section 112 (social work) report and an expert for the purpose of providing an opinion on a parenting plan.

Education

1985

Master of Social Work / University of Toronto

Course work concentrating on:

Child and family – Clinical

Individual psychopathology

Systemic approaches to assessment and treatment

Functional and dysfunctional families

Sexual abuse

Alcohol and substance abuse

Family violence

Social welfare

Casework

First year placement – Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Metro Toronto

Second year placement – Scarborough Youth Services

1982

Specialized Honours B.A. / Psychology / York University

Course work concentrating on:

Abnormal psychology

Child development

Adult life

Cognitive development

Educational psychology

Human Neuropsychology

Language development

Neurodevelopment of language

Learning and behaviour

Motivation

Personality development

Statistics

Selected Achievements

Invited Consultant: Consulting to the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton on cases regarding high conflict separated parents.

Invited participant: Family Mediation in Canada: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow; A conference attended by global leaders in family mediation. Over 40 renowned experts coming from a number of countries and professions (social workers, psychologists, lawyers, judges, government officials, law enforcement officials) addressed issues that parents and families face when they are obliged to restructure their family relations following separation and divorce.

Three-time presenter/panelist regarding Parenting Coordination –2012, 2013 and 2014 at AFCC Annual International Conferences (advanced concepts in Parenting Coordination – assessing challenging referrals, documentation, termination, self-protective strategies) (The *Association of Family and Conciliation Courts* is an interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict.)

As per the Honourable Justice Turnbull of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice: *Mr. Direnfeld has done an exemplary job in preparing his report; Mr. Direnfeld made specific findings which I think are important; ...Mr. Direnfeld recommended in his well written report that the present joint parenting arrangement continue as per the Order of Justice Kent; I find the recommendations made by Mr. Direnfeld to largely be in the best interests of the children.*

Invited facilitator for discussion on Power Imbalances and Domestic Violence and provisions of the Uniform Collaborative Law Act, Hofstra University, New York

First person to present on Domestic Violence and Power Imbalances at the annual international conference of the International Association of Collaborative Professionals

Developed and delivered training program: Screening for Domestic Violence and Power Imbalances, as per Regulations under the Arbitration Act, per the Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario

Deemed an expert for the purpose of providing an opinion on a parenting plan / Superior Court of Justice, Family Court, Hamilton, Ontario / His Honour Judge Festeryga

Invited Keynote Speaker / 13th Annual Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Conference, Enhancing Victim and Child Safety, Bismarck, North Dakota

Deemed an expert for the purpose of giving a critique on a Section 112 (social work) report / Superior Court of Justice, Family Court, Hamilton, Ontario / Her Honour Judge Wallace

Deemed an expert in Social Work with regard to Parent-Child Relations, Superior Court of Justice, Family Court, Hamilton, Ontario / The Honourable Mr. Justice Randolph J. Mazza

Deemed an Expert in Social Work, Child Development and recommendations with respect to Custody and Access Assessment, / Superior Court of Justice - Family Court, Hamilton, Ontario / Her Honour Judge Bain

Deemed an Expert in Social Work / Unified Family Court, Hamilton, Ontario / His Honour Judge Van Duzer

Deemed an Expert in Marital and Family Therapy / Ontario Provincial Court / Family Division / His Honour Judge Main

First non-physician to present at Family Practice Rounds / Managing The Treatment Process With Adult Survivors Of Sexual Abuse / Chedoke-McMaster Hospitals (was invited back for a second presentation)

Recommendation of Sexual Abuse Treatment Manual: Sexual Abuse Counselling by Family Practitioners - "I recommend Direnfeld's learning kit to family physicians whether they have little or extensive experience with survivors of childhood sexual abuse." Dr. S. Rechner, Journal of Canadian Family Physician

Consulted on the developmental needs of students with special needs to 12 different Boards of Education in Ontario

Presented at Medical Rounds in 12 Ontario hospitals / Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Rehabilitation Needs

Examiner / Ontario College Of Certified Social Workers

Published book - Raising Kids Without Raising Cane

Clinical experience

- Dec. 1989 - present Social Worker - private practice
- Providing social work services to individuals, couples, families and children for matters pertaining to abuse, child rearing and development, adjustment, relationships, alcohol and substance abuse, vocational and academic performance, behaviour problems, and marital and family life.
 - Providing assessment services for matters pertaining to custody and access. Included are issues of wife abuse, child abuse, child witnessing mother-abuse, sexual abuse, alcohol-substance abuse, criminal behaviour, new partners, blended families, learning disabilities, relocation, co-morbidity, etc.
 - Providing mediation and/or arbitration services for matters pertaining to custody and access.
- Feb. 1990 - June 1992 Social Worker / part time / E.A.P. / Family Services Association, Hamilton
- Providing social work services to individuals, couples, families and children for matters pertaining to abuse, child rearing and development, adjustment, relationships, vocational performance, alcohol and substance abuse and behaviour problems.
- Sept. 1989 - Dec. 1989 Social Worker / Behavioral unit / Acquired Brain Injury Program / Chedoke McMaster Hospitals
- Providing social work services to aid in the assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of persons affected by traumatic brain injury.
- Sept. 1985 - July 1989 Social Worker / Adolescent Services / Thistletown Regional Centre
- Providing social work services to individuals, couples, families and children for matters pertaining to abuse, child rearing and development, adjustment, relationships, alcohol and substance abuse, behaviour and psychiatric problems.
 - Providing collaborative services with sexual abuse program, young offender, secure treatment as treatment team member and full privileges for staff development
- April 1985 - Sept 1985 Family Service Worker / Catholic Children's Aid Society Of Toronto

- Providing ongoing social work services as mandated under the Child and Family Services Act

June 1982 - Sept 1983

Instructor Therapist / Primary Worker / TRE ADD / Thistletown Regional Centre

- Providing direct care and psycho-social treatment to youth with serious developmental disorders

Training in

Family Arbitration
Mediation
Screening for Domestic Violence and Power Imbalance
Family Law
Collaborative Law, Level 1 and 2
Family therapy
Individual therapy
Group therapy
Sexual abuse assessment and treatment – child, adolescent, family and adult
Assessment and treatment of adult sexual offenders
Assessment and treatment of spousal assault / family violence
Assessment and treatment of individuals, couples and families
Family dynamics – functional and dysfunctional in relation to physical abuse, sexual abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, psychiatric and behavioural problems
Psychiatric diagnosis and classification
Assessment and treatment of co-existing disorders – co-morbidity
Psychotropic medication related to psychiatric disorders, sexual aggression
Assessment and treatment of alcohol/substance abuse
Multi-disciplinary approaches to assessment and treatment
Cross professional collaboration
Elements of psychology, speech language pathology, psychiatry, neurology, special education
Cross cultural issues in assessment and treatment
Gender issues in assessment and treatment
Applied Behavioural Analysis – assessment, treatment planning and intervention
Psychotropic medication
Physical intervention

Continuous education:

Reading journals, books, periodicals related to matters of clinical practice
Meet and consult with colleagues
Research matters pertaining to particular issues as they arise
Research in preparation for presentations and conferences and attending conferences

Presentations

Please note, I provide 5 to 15 presentations annually on all topics within my span of expertise.

Hard of Hearing: Can you relate to that? - *PRECONFERENCE HIGHLIGHT* - The Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, Gander, NL, October 20, 2010, and NL Hard of Hearing Association - St. John, NL, October 21, 2010

The Politics of Cooperation - This workshop will focus on moving from "position to interest" to help conflicted persons reach that elusive win/win. - Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Workers, October 22, 2010

Collaborative Draftsmanship: Finessing the Successful Preparation of Minutes and Agreements - Daniel G. Cantone, Esq., (Camillus, NY, USA), Natalie Alane, Esq., (Lansing, MI, USA), Gary Direnfeld, MSW, RSW (Dundas, ON, Canada), IACP annual conference, Washington, DC, October 2010

The Parenting Plan: The parents' roadmap to successful joint care of their children – Collaborative presentation with Don McIntyre, OCLF – provincial conference, September 2010

What's So Special About Kids with Special Needs? Keynote – CDRCP Conference
Children and Divorce and the Role of the ECE (multiple trainings for early childhood educators)

Effects on Children of Witnessing Domestic Violence, presented in NFLD, ON and BC
Domestic Violence and Its Implications for Children as Direct and Indirect Victims / 13th Annual Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Conference Enhancing Victim and Child Safety Bismarck, North Dakota

Developmental Issues and Treatment Recommendations for Children Who Witness Violence Victims / 13th Annual Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Conference Enhancing Victim and Child Safety Bismarck, North Dakota

Witnessing Domestic Violence as a Child Protection issue. What's Going On In Other Jurisdictions / 13th Annual Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Conference Enhancing Victim and Child Safety Bismarck, North Dakota

Domestic Violence and Risk to Workers / 13th Annual Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Conference Enhancing Victim and Child Safety Bismarck, North Dakota

Who's at my door and why should I let you in? Challenges and strategies to forming relationships with difficult to reach kids / Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, National Conference, Toronto, June 2005

Helping clients in high conflict custody and access cases, Torkin Manes Cohen Arbus LLP, Toronto, Ontario

The life of a child of separated parents... Helping them cope., YWCA, Burlington, Ontario

Childhood and Adolescent Anxiety and Depression: What's Influencing our Youth Today?, Federation's Alliance for Jewish Education, Detroit Michigan

Discussing Custody And Access Issues, YWCA – Hamilton, Ontario

Parenting Plans: A Blueprint for Successful Co-parenting, Hamilton

Child Behaviour and Special Issues, Joy of Childhood Conference, York Region

"All In The Family" (The secret of sexual abuse) / Clinical Teaching Conference / Thistleton Regional Centre

Speaker - Panelist / "Sexual Abuse: Assessment and Treatment" / Sexual Abuse Conference / Toronto, Ontario

"Family Therapy? Yes, But What Type?" / Ontario Psychiatric Conference / Co-presented

with Dr. Jalal Shamsie / Toronto, Ontario

"Myths and Biases In Family Therapy (Feminist Perspectives)" / Family Therapy Forum / Thistletown Regional Centre

Co-supervised family therapy training of Residents in Psychiatry / Thistletown Regional Centre

"Is The Progress For Real?" – Assessing response to treatment of adult offenders / Clinical Teaching Conference / Thistletown Regional Centre

Myths and Biases In Family Therapy / Hamilton

Managing The Treatment Process With Adult Survivors Of Sexual Abuse / Family Practice Rounds / Chedoke-McMaster Hospitals (also March 1993)

Managing Difficult Behaviour / workshop for Foster Parents / The California Department of Public Social Services, Riverside and Rancho Mirage, Ca.
(Understanding children's issues arising from abuse for children living in Foster Care settings.)

"The Politics Of Cooperation: Moving A Monster" / Clinical Teaching Conference / Thistletown Regional Centre

The Surprise Package in Foster Care / workshop for Foster Parents / The California Department of Public Social Services, Riverside and Rancho Mirage, Ca.

"Transitioning From Secure To Open Settings: The Politics Of Cooperation" (working with violent youth) / Critical Risk - Quality Care: Adolescence In Secure Settings / International Conference / Toronto, Ontario

Speaker - Panelist / Management Of Suicidal Behaviour In Adolescence / Conference / Toronto, Ontario

Consultation and Staff Development / Behaviour Management, Aggression Management / part time, private practice

Managing The Unmanageable: A process for dealing with problematic behaviour in the elementary school setting / Brant County Separate School Board

Working With Teens / Train The Trainers / WOW / Hamilton

"Adolescence In Context" / Youth Pressures Of The Nineties / Prevention Network Of Hamilton Wentworth

The Whole Enchilada, Uniqueness vs. Sameness Underlying Program Development / Closing Keynote Speaker / Early Childhood Resource Network of Ontario, Provincial Conference

"Collaborative Services" / conference / Lifetime Learning / Ontario Association Of Professional Social Workers / Ottawa, Ontario

"Collaborative Services" / conference / Towards 2001 - Refining Our Resources / The Canadian Council and the Ontario Federation of Chapters of The Council For Exceptional Children

Working In Teams...or Why Professionals Don't Get Along / Hamilton

An Introduction To The Fundamentals Of Case Management / Co-sponsored with the Ontario Head Injury Association

Clinical Case Management Seminar / Social Work Students / Thistletown Regional Centre

Closing Disability Claims – Understanding the role of rehabilitation / workshop co-sponsored with Ontario Insurance Institute / People in Motion Exhibition

Riding The Edge Of Catastrophe / workshop co-sponsored with Ontario Insurance Institute / People in Motion Exhibition

Treading On Sacred Ground - Family Issues for In-Home Rehabilitation / guest speaker / Para-Med

Right Time, Right Place, Right Intervention / Community NeuroCare / Clinical presentation

Family Issues From The Rehabilitation Perspective / Ontario Brain Injury Association - Educational Seminar

Clinical Realities: Understanding the Impact of trauma on Families and Rehabilitation Needs / 1996 Annual New Beginnings Conference - Halifax / national brain injury conference

Rehabilitation: Insurer Issues / guest speaker / Ontario Brain Injury Association / speaker series

Presented at Medical Rounds in 12 Ontario hospitals/ Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Rehabilitation Needs

Understanding Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Rehabilitation Needs / Insurance Institute of Ontario / sole presenter / Toronto seminar

The Quagmire of Receiving Private Rehabilitation Services / Transition Into The Community / National Brain Injury Conference / Canadian Brain Injury Coalition / Calgary Alta.

Family Issues in Rehabilitation - Intervening family variables including pre-existing issues related to violence, abuse, addictions / speaker / Centre For Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation / Toronto workshop

Understanding Comprehensive Assessment and Rehabilitation for Persons With Traumatic Brain Injury / speaker-panelist / Centre for Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation, Toronto Conference

Guest speaker / Social Implications Of Language Disorders / Neurolinguistics Tutorial / York University

Guest speaker (3 occasions) / Schizophrenia / Abnormal Psychology Class / York University

Can Kids Be Ripped In Half / Dundas Information Services

St. Bernadette's Day Care / Raising Kids Without Raising Cane

Winning in Relationships / Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton Wentworth

"Self-Esteem And The Preschooler" / Schools Expo / Ontario Science Centre / Toronto, Ontario

Under Four and Underfoot / Peel Children's Centre

Relationships / teen workshop / WOW / The John Howard Society

Under Six And Underfoot / workshop / E.C.E. - Halton Branch

Developmental Transitions: Growing Up Kids and Letting Go / Hillfield Strathallan College

"Gender, Power and Hang-ups" / Break The Silence / Ancaster High And Vocational School

Adolescence/guest speaker / Max Rotman Humanitarian Youth Awards

Relationships / teen workshop / WOW / YMCA

Men, Women, and The Nineties / guest panelist / B'Nai Brith

Surviving Your Teens / Westdale High School, Parents Association

Separation and Divorce / young offenders / Newcombe House

Adolescence Is Not A Disease / Westdale High School, Parents Association / guest speaker / Alternatives For Youth / Week Of The Child

Raising Kids Without Raising Cane / Co-sponsored with Ont. Assoc. of E.C.E. - Hamilton Branch / Week Of The Child Event

Step-parents / high risk teens, inner city school / Hamilton

Social Implications Of Anxiety Disorders / Fear Naught (self help)

Am I My Brother's Keeper?: Sibling Issues / Ontario Society For Autistic Citizens, Hamilton Wentworth Chapter

***Television/Radio/
Newspaper/ Periodicals***

Please note, I provide at least 30 media interviews annually and typically 3 to 4 per month. In addition, I am the parenting/family life columnist with the Hamilton Spectator newspaper with more than 400 published columns to date.

Host – TV lifestyle/reality show: Newlywed-Nearly Dead? - Airing in Canada, USA, and Latin America (65 episodes).

CBC – Fifth Estate – Guest Expert – Video Game Addiction, 2009

Hundreds of quotes throughout major Canadian and US newspapers and periodicals.

Special Guest – radio talk shows throughout Canada and the USA

Special Guest – On The Line, with host, Christine Williams, Christian Television Service (multiple appearances)

Special Guest – CHTV – Live at 5:30 with Mark Hepsher and Donna Skelly (more than 50 appearances)

Guest Host / Divorce Interactive Live / Carl Palatnik host / Voice America – Internet Radio

Special Guest / Divorce Interactive Live / Carl Palatnik host / Voice America – Internet Radio

Special Guest – social work consultant / CHTV Morning Live / CHTV Hamilton (numerous occasions)

Special Guest / W-Network / Erin Davis host / Women’s Television Network

Guest Panalist / More to Life / Mary Ito host / TV Ontario

Special guest / Real Life / Erica Ehm host/The Life Network – (twice)

Pediatric Brain Injury / Lunchtime Live With Debbie Burk / Cablenet Community Channel / Burlington, Ontario

Occasional special guest / family and childhood issues / CITY LINE TV / Marilyn Dennis host, CITY TV (5 times)

"Peer Pressure" / Lunchtime Live with Debbie Burke / Cablenet Community Channel / Burlington, Ontario

"Parenting" / Lunchtime Live with Debbie Burke / Cablenet Community Channel / Burlington

Weekly guest / Social Work expert opinion / News at Noon / CHCH TV, 50 weeks

Guest Panelist / Issues In Education (Self-Esteem and students) / TVO live phone-in talk show

Monthly guest on radio phone-in show / CKOC, Ninety Minutes Live with Doug Faraway / (17 shows)

Talking With Your Teens / Co-sponsored with CKOC Radio for Week Of The Child

Guest panelist – Birth Order / The Shirley Show / CTV national talk show

Articles

| Title | Description |
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| <u>When Not To See Kids In Counselling</u> | At certain point in a custody/access dispute, counselling for children may prove harmful... |
| <u>Moving After a Separation</u> | Will your children adjust? |
| <u>Finding a Professional</u> | Strategies for finding the right kind of helper in your community |
| <u>Domestic Violence and Power Imbalances</u> | Has your service provider been trained yet? |
| <u>Children's Mental Health and Intervention in View of Domestic Violence, Parental Alcoholism and Parental Separation</u> | What doctors, lawyers and others should know to help kids (a lengthy article) |
| <u>Backdoor Assessments and Counselling in The Middle Of Custody and Access Disputes</u> | Sneaky and not advised. |
| <u>Parenting Plan Considerations</u> | There are many things to consider in a parenting plan... |
| <u>Divorcing? Preserve Your Assets and Relationships with Cooler Heads</u> | Even if your marriage ended badly, your divorce doesn't have to. |
| <u>Family Professional Support Through the Separation/Divorce Process</u> | Knowing certain risk factors may prompt you to seek help... |
| <u>Considering a Parenting Coordinator?</u> | Experience is one only one aspect of what to look for... |
| <u>Forget Harmony, Settle for Peace</u> | It is a mistake trying to get high-conflict parents to get along. Here's what to do instead... |
| <u>Separating?</u> | How will you manage the process?... |
| <u>From Position To Interest While Managing Adjustment</u> | Helping separated parents sort out a parenting plan... |
| <u>A Tale of Two Cities and Parent Alienation Syndrome</u> | Same problem can get two very different responses... |
| <u>Which is Better, Blue or Green?</u> | It's not the colour you chose, but the fight that continues after a side is picked... |
| <u>Even Court Orders Aren't Cast in Stone</u> | Perhaps you can... But should you? |
| <u>Parenting Coordinator in the Province of Ontario</u> | New legislation impacts on the process of Parenting Coordination in Ontario. Read how... |
| <u>Even Lawyers Get the Blues</u> | Some things lawyers should consider when needing help themselves.... |
| <u>Settling Custody and Access Disputes...</u> | Court, Counselling, Mediation, Parenting Coordinator: What's the difference? |
| <u>Reconciliation Counselling</u> | Repairing fractured relationships may need a "go forward" approach... |
| <u>Improving Eleventh Hour Agreements</u> | If you are going to reach an agreement at the eleventh hour, better make sure it's workable. Here's how to improve the odds. |

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| <u>How important is consistency really?</u> | Quite frankly... second fiddle to conflict |
| <u>Divorce of Low-Conflict Parents and Kids</u> | Don't kid yourself, even if you are low-conflict, your children can be seriously affected. |
| <u>Attention Divided by Divorce</u> | If you think ADD is Attention Deficit Disorder, then read this article... Particularly if you are in the middle of a high-conflict separation or divorce. |
| <u>Normal Childhood Behaviour Misconstrued</u> | Abuse? Neglect? Parental alienation? Maybe just normal childhood behaviour... |
| <u>What do I call you?</u> | Separated and starting a new family? So what do the children call you? |
| <u>After separation, what about the kids?</u> | Settling child custody matters can be made easier. This may help. |
| <u>Whose Day Is It Today???</u> | New Internet services help parents keep track of schedules, communications and more - a real service to those in conflict... |
| <u>Credible Data in Child Custody and Access Disputes</u> | Those affidavits you've been collecting may work against you... |
| <u>Let Go To Win - Child Custody</u> | Custody battles are kinda like monkey traps. Here's a way out... |
| <u>Can a child choose which parent to live with?</u> | At what age can a child decide who they live with? |
| <u>How Do You Rate Your Separation</u> | Parental conflict during separation can be categorized as low, medium and high... |
| <u>Parental Separation: Who do you see?</u> | Friend? Lawyer?... How about a social worker! |
| <u>An Affair is No Way to End a Marriage</u> | If you don't think an affair will play into separation, Child custody and access issues, then read this... |
| <u>Separated parents in dispute: Don't drag in your service providers!</u> | That letter of support you asked for... could cause you trouble. Here's why... |
| <u>What is Child Custody?</u> | Child Custody refers to the legal right to make decisions... |
| <u>Imagine... A Collaborative Approach To Divorce</u> | Looking for an alternative way to resolve disputes without the threat of Court? Check this out... |
| <u>Child Custody/Access Dispute and Choice of Lawyer</u> | The lawyer you choose and their approach to settlement can affect your kids... |
| <u>Kids of Separated Parents: The Annual Holiday Access Dispute</u> | Have you settled your holiday plans yet? Consider this advice... |
| <u>A funny thing happened on the way to trial...</u> | There is more to choosing an assessor than their professional credentials... |
| <u>Children and Parents Adjust to Separation</u> | With all the attention on the kids, what about the adjustment parents make to their separation... |
| <u>Parenting Plans From a Kid's Eye View</u> | Kids often know how close their parents can be to each other. The level of conflict is the key... |
| <u>Absent Parent Returns, Active Parent in Turmoil</u> | This article discusses issues and strategies to manage the return of an absent parent who demands access. |
| <u>High Heat, the Assessment and then Court...</u> | Some disputes go all the way. If this sounds like your situation, you are now at the will of the Court. |
| <u>A Foot in Two Families</u> | Your eldest is from a prior relationship and now s/he wants more time with the other parent... What |

[Who Started It Doesn't Necessarily Matter!](#)

do you do?

Who started the conflict matters less than how to go forward. Remember the Wizard of Oz?

[Keeping A Child Away From The Other Parent Can Backfire](#)

Separated parents who undermine their child's relationship to the other parent wind up hurting their child and themselves. Here's how...

[Need Help Sorting Out A Parenting Plan?](#)

Here are the four strategies available to parents...

[What's a kid to do when parents hate each other?](#)

What to do when parents despise each other and the child is caught in the middle...

[Mediating Child Behaviour Problems Between Separated Parents – A Case Scenario](#)

A child of separated parents acts up at school. Each parent blames the other. Child custody is now in dispute...

[Settling Child Custody And Access Cases](#)

Want to settle more cases? Change your language and move from *position* to *interest*. Here's what it's about...

[Parents Have Input Until The Gavel Comes Down](#)

You may not like the assessment recommendations, but you have time to settle before the gavel comes down...

[Recently separated? Practice As if Parenting](#)

Some parents give in to their guilt, others feel they have to compete with the shower of gifts as the other parent tries to buy the relationship with the kids. What's a parent to do? This article will tell you!

[Parallel Parenting – A form of joint custody](#)

When you can't play *with*, but can play *beside*... Parallel parenting may be for you.

[Are you sure you *need* to go to Court?](#)

In some high conflict cases, *need* isn't the issue. It's irreconcilable parental values - *wants*. Court may be necessary...

[Step Away From The "C" Word!](#)

The quickest way to escalate conflict between separated parents is with the "C" word. Here is some alternative language to use...

[Blended family/Kids in distress: What to do?](#)

Things were going well. Then one parent remarries, a new family emerges and the kids are in distress. Here's what to do...

[Divorced? Have a 100% relationship with your kids](#)

It's the relationship that counts, not the 50/50 split. Here's what makes the 100% relationship with your kids following divorce.

[Divorce: What if court wasn't an option?](#)

First came litigation, then mediation... now it's Collaborative Law. Inroads to settling divorce without going to court.

[Collaborative Law and Social Work](#)

In marriages we speak of "goodness-of-fit". The same holds true of some professions. This article looks at the relationship between Collaborative Law and Social Work

[Parenting Coordinator: An alternative to running back to Court](#)

If issue after issue keeps taking you back to Court, then consider this service.

[Assessment Critique: Hired gun or dispassionate opinion](#)

If you are going to use an assessment critique, make sure the evaluation is credible. Here's how.

[Treading on Sacred Ground](#)

Some parents who are undergoing separation or

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| <u>Children and Divorce: The Role of the Early Childhood Educator</u> | divorce involve their child's daycare or school in their conflict. This article advises against this and offers suggestions to help. |
| <u>Getting Kids Out Of The Cross Fire</u> | This article instructs Early Childhood Educators and childcare providers how to manage issues arising from custody and access matters. |
| <u>Preferred, Estranged or Alienated?</u> | High conflict parenting battles hurt children. Here are some tips in the interest of the children. |
| <u>High Conflict Divorce: Mediating Parenting Plans</u> | In custody and access battles, children's preferences may be at issue but the influences on their preference may be many. This article addresses influences to children's preferences. |
| <u>Critiquing Child Custody and Access Assessments</u> | When parents are determined to fight, mediation can be a challenge. Here's what's involved. |
| <u>Process Issues in Child Custody and Access Assessments</u> | What if you think your custody and access assessment is wrong? This article discusses "assessment critiques". |
| <u>Access and the adolescent: Issues on both sides of the fence</u> | This article describes that HOW a child custody and access assessment is conducted is as important as what is reported to the integrity of the report. |
| <u>Restricted Access? Consider the long term...</u> | Adolescence brings it's own issues to access and residence. Parents need to be flexible and honest to manage the changes. |
| <u>Parenting Plan Worksheet</u> | Parents with restricted access may need help directing their attention and activities to develop relationships for the long term. This article offers suggestions. |
| <u>Check out that Counselor</u> | Separated/divorced? Can't sort out the care of your children? Use this parenting plan worksheet to help discuss and develop a parenting plan! |
| <u>Child Custody and Access</u> | Looking for a good counselor? Ask these questions... |
| <u>Child-up Parenting Plan</u> | This article describes custody and access assessments and what is involved. |
| <u>Helping Separated Parents Communicate</u> | What if a parenting plan was developed from the kid's perspective? |
| <u>Inconsistent Parental Access</u> | Can't get along well enough to communicate effectively. Try this... |
| <u>Parental Alienation</u> | What to do when the access parent doesn't show up... |
| <u>Newlywed Boundaries: Holidays and Children</u> | Do some parents go out of their way to make things tough on the access parent? |
| <u>Issues for Immigrant Parents and Their Children</u> | Defining yourselves as a couple, separate from your own families... |
| <u>Moving... again!</u> | Parent/child conflict in the context of adapting to a new culture... |
| <u>The Words Inside Your Head</u> | Multiple moves can affect the children... |
| <u>Marital Tips List</u> | What you tell yourself influences your behaviour and feelings.... A guide to surviving and thriving in marriage.... |

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| <u>Sexual Abuse Counselling by Family Physicians</u> | If you provide sexual abuse counselling, this may be helpful... |
| <u>When Your Child “Comes Out”</u> | How will you handle the news? |
| <u>The Happy Alcoholic Still Creates Problems</u> | Even an alcoholic with a good mood creates problems for family and children |
| <u>Distress In Cross-Cultural Marriages</u> | Remember the loud talker or even the quiet talker in the <i>Seinfeld</i> show... |
| <u>On Children, Family Life and Future</u> | “You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.” <i>Kahlil Gibran</i> |
| <u>Healthy Eating for Kids</u> | Strategies to improve kids eating habits... |
| <u>Challenging Teens</u> | Wayward youth? Engage them... |
| <u>Your children are listening and sometimes watching too.</u> | What do you do when a child tells you their parents fight? |
| <u>Understanding Is Not Enough</u> | Misbehaviour cannot be managed by understanding alone. |
| <u>Psychological Abuse</u> | No bruises, big hurt, difficult to escape... Here's how. |
| <u>Self-Help vs. Professional Help</u> | There's a big difference! |
| <u>Active or Passive Counseling?</u> | Which is better depends upon what you are looking for. |
| <u>Teen’s First Job</u> | Chores at home and support in job hunting helps land the first job... |
| <u>Secular counselling isn’t always enough</u> | Conflict with God or faith? The help you need may be from your clergy or religious leader... |
| <u>Someone really really difficult to get along with?</u> | This person may have a personality disorder... Read more! |
| <u>Happiness won’t save you if the pond you are swimming in is polluted.</u> | Alcohol use and corporal punishment don't mix |
| <u>Make Amends</u> | Even if you waited until the very end, still consider doing it for your legacy. |
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| <u>Choosing Mr. Right</u> | Strategies for mate selection! |
| <u>Bless the Coach</u> | Let them do their job and let sportsmanship rule the day! |
| <u>Conflict of Libidos</u> | Your drive may be different, but this doesn't have to be a deal breaker.... |
| <u>Therapy? Yes, but what type?</u> | Be sure to discuss your problem with the therapist BEFORE setting an appointment.. |
| <u>My Child is Odd</u> | Hangs out with the adults, class clown, bullied, uses phrases or humour but inappropriately... |
| <u>Out of Control and Pseudomature Teens</u> | Hang in... change is a rough ride and starts with the parents.... |
| <u>The First Few Years Of School</u> | Is your young child having problems at school? |

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| <u>Sibling Harmony Versus Rivalry</u> | Don't confuse different developmental stages for lack of love... |
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| <u>Effects of Exposure to Domestic Violence From Childhood to Adult Life</u> | Domestic violence affects children in the present and in adult life. Here's how... |
| <u>Assessing Change</u> | Not sure if therapy or treatment is working? Here is how you figure it out... |
| <u>Need help parenting a teen?</u> | Are you a parent or a friend? It makes a world of difference in managing behaviour! |
| <u>When a Child With Special Needs and Complex Disabilities Surfaces with Behaviour Problems</u> | Where do you start? |
| <u>On Coping with Death...</u> | Children grieve too. Here's how... |
| <u>Affairs Are About Anything But Love</u> | Don't kid yourself and worse, don't compromise your integrity... |
| <u>Parents can help prevent teen driver car crashes</u> | Parents! You are the path to the keys... |
| <u>Who's In Charge Anyways?</u> | Grandparents, parents, children... Making it work when living together... |
| <u>Living with Abortion</u> | An abortion is an event in time, living with with the decision lasts a lifetime. |
| <u>Childhood Sexual Abuse and Adult Intimate Life</u> | It starts with understanding and education, then permission... |
| <u>Assessing and Managing School-Age Children with Behavioral Problems</u> | Get it right because getting it wrong only makes problems worse. Here's how... |
| <u>The Granddaddy of All New Years Resolutions</u> | All others pale next to this one... |
| <u>Sibling issues when one has special needs: Am I my brother's keeper?</u> | How do you support siblings whose brother or sister many have special needs? |
| <u>Parental Guilt and Kids with Special</u> | Some parents experience severe guilt for the special |

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| <u>Needs</u> | needs of their kids. Let's take a look at it... |
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| <u>But He's an Angel at Home</u> | Does your child get into trouble at daycare or school, yet is good at home? Consider this... |
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| <u>Tethered By The Electronic Umbilicus</u> | Learn the two secrets to raising kids of "good character". |
| <u>Will Your Kids Be Of "Good Character"?</u> | Follow this advise and lead a life of feeling good. |
| <u>Guiding Principle</u> | Things change, adjustments needs to be facilitated. Here's one good one for the books! |
| <u>Stepbrothers Teach Their Parents</u> | Exposure to domestic violence is harmful to children. This article explains... (<u>Domestic Violence</u> - PowerPoint Presentations) |
| <u>Hitting hurts. So does exposure to it as a kid</u> | Do you know the three major life events that can take a toll on your marriage if hit all at once? Marital therapy requires specialized training, distinguishing it from family therapy and individual therapy. |
| <u>Married Boomers Face Their Own Perfect Storm</u> | Exasperated parents of teens see counselling as a way to help. However, parents are advised to meet with the counsellor first. Here's why. |
| <u>Marital Therapy?</u> | Managing behaviour is a little like feeding dogs. Here's how... |
| <u>Think Your Teen Needs Counselling?</u> | Parents are right. Bribery does not work. However, reinforcement does. Here's the difference... |
| <u>Which Dog Do You Feed?</u> | Growing up kids to become good teens is like making coffee. Here's how it works... |
| <u>Bribery vs. Reinforcement</u> | If you are a separated parent who is seriously dating, consider these points to ease your children's adjustment before marriage or cohabiting |
| <u>Good Teens Start With Good Beans</u> | Parents are worried their kids spend too much time "chatting" on-line. Here's my advice. |
| <u>Check Ingredients Before Blending</u> | You've decided on counselling, but do you use private or public services... EAP or third party benefits? This article explains the differences. |
| <u>Instant Messaging - get with the program</u> | Some preschoolers learn to manipulate their parents feelings to get out of doing as they're told. Here's what to do. |
| <u>Counselling: Knowing your options</u> | Sexual Abuse Counselling can help! This article explains what's involved. |
| <u>Preschooler Behaviour: Who's the Boss</u> | Want to know what to do? |
| <u>Sexual Abuse Counselling</u> | |
| <u>Is your 8 – 10 year old boy/girl crazy?</u> | |

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| <u>Depression: Youth, Counselling and Antidepressants</u> | As if parents didn't have enough to worry about if their teen was depressed, now they have to worry about the effects of medication. This article discusses the role of medication and counseling in treating depression. |
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| <u>My Partner is Alcoholic. Can you help?</u> | This article discusses 5 stages to recovery and challenges to sobriety. |
| <u>Finding Joy in Your Children</u> | Managing children means more than control or discipline. It includes <i>joy</i> . This article describes the use of joy to rekindle or maximize parent-child relationships. |
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| <u>Internet Safety and Children</u> | This article describes warning signs for Internet misuse and prevention strategies. |
| <u>Home from University</u> | A tongue in cheek article about kids returning home from first year university. |
| <u>Thinking of an affair? Then think again.</u> | This article describes the impact of affairs on loved ones and offers practical advice before having an affair. |
| <u>Tantrums getting the better of you?</u> | Sure kids protest, but how do you handle the behaviour in the two to three year old? This article offers suggestions. |
| <u>A Brief Synopsis of Child Sexual Abuse from Onset to Adult Life</u> | This article describes the process of childhood sexual abuse and impact on child, then adult functioning and concludes with how to help. |
| <u>Safe From Strangers</u> | Child abduction is every parents nightmare. This article offers thoughts and tips to help keep children safer. |
| <u>Do You Have a Wholesome Family?</u> | This article summarizes a survey to define a wholesome family and offers tips to become one. |
| <u>Terrible Twos</u> | This article offers advice on understanding and managing the behaviour of two-year-olds. |
| <u>Catch a Kid Doing Good</u> | This article reminds us of the importance of noticing good behaviour. |
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| <u>Leaving the nest</u> | Leaving home... the nice way. |
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| <u>Raising Responsible Teens</u> | younger child. Monitoring your teen is a good thing... Do it like this. |
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Parenting Plan Worksheet, Collaborative Practice Materials, A Resource Manual for Collaborative Professionals and Clients by Catherine Ann Conner and Margaret L. Anderson ©2004

Common Mistakes Parents Make / Mocha-Sofa (E-Zine)

Self-Righteousness Vs. Self-Esteem / KidsGrowth (E-Zine)

Four Tips For Building Self-Esteem In Children / Mocha Sofa (E-Zine)

Catch A Kid Doing Good! / Daycare (E-Zine)

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