

14-10-128.1

PARENTING  
COORDINATOR

# COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING FOR PARENTING COORDINATORS AND DECISION-MAKERS

14-10-128.3

DECISION-  
MAKER

An extensive, two-day training for  
Parenting Coordinators, Decision-  
Makers and other professionals who  
may want to become  
PCs and D-Ms.

## What is a Parenting Coordinator or Decision-Maker?

The Parenting Coordinator and Decision-Maker are relatively new roles that first became effective in Colorado in 2005 and then were amended in 2009. The parenting coordinator (PC) and decision-maker (DM) work with high conflict parents to aid them in their parenting to keep the children out of the middle of their conflict. In Colorado, a parenting coordinator is a neutral third party who assists in the resolution of disputes between the parties concerning parental responsibilities and in implementing the parenting plan. The decision-maker, who may or may not be the PC, is authorized to make binding decisions to resolve disputes between the parties in implementing or clarifying their orders.

## Who Should Take this Training?

If you have been appointed to either of these roles or are a mediator, allocation of parental responsibilities evaluator, CFI, children's legal representative, or mental health or legal professional who may want to serve as a PC or DM, this comprehensive training is for you.

Parents who continue in chronic high conflict and persist in ongoing litigation frustrate and puzzle professionals and burden our courts. This workshop will describe the new interventions helpful in reducing parental conflict, focusing on understanding the psychological dynamics of the parents and the impact of the conflict on the children. The parenting coordination and decision-making processes, structure and roles which have been approved in CRS 14-10-128.1 and 128.3 will be described, emphasizing the practical aspects of serving as a parenting coordinator or decision-maker. The use of parenting coordination and/or decision-making in cases with allegations of domestic violence, alienation and child abuse will be discussed as well as the types of cases which are not appropriate for parenting coordination and/or decision-making. This workshop will also discuss the ethical issues inherent in this role and present an overview of best practices.

## The Presenters

**Betsy Barbour Duvall, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., B.C.D.**, is a psychotherapist and mediator in private practice in Denver, Colorado. She has presented in various cities in the USA and Canada about high conflict divorce and parenting coordination. She is frequently consulted about PC/DM cases and practices. Betsy has served as chair of the Colorado NASW Ethics Committee and on the Board of Directors of both MDIC and the Colorado Chapter of AFCC. She was awarded MDIC's President's Award in 2008.

**Christine A. Coates, M.Ed., J.D.**, an experienced family law attorney, now emphasizes ADR in domestic relations. A former president of AFCC, she chaired the AFCC Task Force on Parenting Coordination which in 2005 produced Guidelines for Parenting Coordination. Christie was awarded AFCC's Distinguished Service Award in 2006. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Colorado School of Law, trains and consults internationally in ADR processes and issues and is one of the authors of *Learning from Divorce*, Jossey-Bass, 2003.

**The Presenters would like to thank the  
Office of Dispute Resolution for content  
and logistical support.**

### Participants in this two-day workshop will:

- Understand the dynamics of high conflict;
- Learn about parenting coordination and decision-making models, roles and practices;
- Learn what decisions are appropriate for the DM to make and which should be left to arbitration or the Court.
- Learn how to avoid the pitfalls of the roles;
- Understand the ethical issues and legal challenges of serving as a parenting coordinator and/or decision-maker;
- Discuss special problems presented by the most difficult cases;
- Hear about recent changes to the PC statute and implications for practice;

Participants will receive an extensive notebook of materials and forms to aid them in their practice;

The Presenters are two of the innovators of the parenting coordination process and co-authors of: ***Working with High-Conflict Families of Divorce: A Guide for Professionals***, Jason Aronson, 2001.

**Location: Jefferson County Court House,  
100 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden.  
Follow Signs to Quad Room  
Phone: 303-271-6145**

Friday lunch is on your own, convenient to location.  
Saturday: please brown bag.  
Coffee, tea and light continental breakfast provided in the morning and snacks and soda in afternoon.

### Thursday February 18, 2010—8:30-4:30

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of Parenting Coordination/Decision Making
- Legal Framework
- Statutory Scheme of PC/DM
- Differences between Mediation and Parenting Coordination
- Role of the Parenting Coordinator and the Types of Disputes Handled
- The Differences between CFI and PC and DM
- Dynamics of High Conflict
- Narcissism
- Empathy and Dealing with Fragile Clients
- The Role of the PC and the Types of Disputes Handled
- Nuts and Bolts
- Questions/Wrap-up for Day

### Friday February 19, 2010—8:30-4:30

- Check-In
- Nuts and Bolts (continued)
- Conflict Resolution Skills
- Conflict Resolution Skills /Facilitation Exercise
- What Attorneys and Courts Need from Written Agreements and Decisions
- Writing Facilitated Agreements
- Making Decisions and Drafting
- Decision Making Exercise
- Special Issues - Alienation
- Special Issues - Domestic Violence
- Ethical/Liability Issues
- Wrap-Up

## REGISTRATION FORM

## Register Early Space is Limited

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Important!)

I am a member of:  IDC  FLS  CCMO  AFCC

### Registration Fees

**Early Registration—on or before February 5, 2010**

Member of CCMO, FLS, IDC, AFCC: ..... \$300.

Others:..... \$325.

**Registration— after February 5, 2010**

Member of CCMO, FLS, IDC, AFCC: ..... \$325.

Others: ..... \$350.

Please inquire about credit card options.

Please mail this form and your check  
made payable to **Resolution Graphics**  
**1926 Fairfax Street**  
**Denver, CO 80220**

Questions: Christine Coates  
coatesc@aol.com

Betsy Duvall  
bbduvall@4edisp.net

CLE Credits including Ethics Credits applied for

**Cancellation Policy:** If you cancel prior to Jan. 29 = full refund.

If you cancel between Jan. 29 and Feb. 5 = full refund less \$75.00 processing fee.

After February 5<sup>th</sup> = credit toward future training.