

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

P.O. Box 1028, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, A1C 5M3

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“I Don’t Want to Go!”

Cases Where Children Resist Post-Separation Contact with a Parent

Thursday, June 21, 2018

9:00 am – 4:30 pm

(Registration begins at 8:45 am)

3rd Floor, Law Society Building, 196-198 Water Street, St. John's, NL

Seminar Overview:

Alienation and other parent-child contact problems pose significant challenges for lawyers, judges and of course parents. This training session provides a differentiated model for understanding the continuum of parent-child contact problems – affinity alignment, justified (realistic estrangement), alienation and hybrid cases, and the impact of alienation on children, adolescents and young adults. The role of the voice of the child and cases with child protection involvement will be discussed. A continuum of legal and mental health interventions based on the nature and severity of the contact problem will be provided, with a focus on early identification, preventative legal measures, and suggestions for parenting plan orders at different stages of the litigation. Please see the working agenda for more information.

Seminar Presenters:

NICHOLAS BALA (Nick) is a leading Canadian expert on legal issues related to children, youth and families in the justice system. Nick has law degrees from Queen's University, (J.D. '77) and Harvard (LL.M. '80). Since 1980 he has been a law professor at Queen's University, teaching and writing primarily in the area of Family and Children's Law. Much of his research involves interdisciplinary collaboration, working with psychologists, social workers and other mental health professionals to address such issues as custody and alienation, views of children in family proceedings, family violence, high conflict separations, child witnesses and young offenders. His work is frequently cited by all levels Canadian courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada and the Court of Appeal of Newfoundland and Labrador. His contributions to family law research and professional education were recognized in awards from Ontario's Law Society and the Ontario Bar Association in 2009. In 2013 Nick was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. His recent publications include: Fidler, Bala & Saini, *Children Resisting Post-Separation Contact: A Differential Approach for Legal and Mental Professionals* (2013); and Bala & Hebert, "Children Resisting Contact: What's a Lawyer to Do?" (2016), 36 *Canadian Family Law Quarterly* 1-56.

DR. BARBARA FIDLER is a clinical developmental psychologist, who has worked with high conflict parenting in divorcing families for over 33 years. Her practice includes clinical consultations, legal-litigation expert services, mediation, parenting coordination and therapy (child, individual, marital, family, and multi-faceted family therapy with families experiencing parent-child contact problems). Dr. Fidler provides professional consultations and trainings to judges, lawyers, mediators and mental health professionals. She is co-author of four books, including two on child custody assessments and two on parent-child contact problems. She has authored many journal articles and book chapters, including three chapters in the recently published, *Overcoming Parent-Child Contact Problems: Family-Based Interventions for Resistance, Rejection, and Alienation* (2017). Dr. Fidler is on the editorial board of the *Family Court Review*. She has been actively involved in the development and training of parenting coordination and currently sits on the AFCC Task Force charged with updating parenting coordination guidelines. Dr. Fidler is a co-founder of *Families Moving Forward*. She is Past-President of AFCC Ontario (2011-2012) and currently sits on the Advisory Committee of Overcoming Barriers, a non-profit organization. She received the AFCC Ontario Distinguished Service President's Award in October 2015 and the FDRIO, Crowe Soberman Award of Excellence in 2017.

Four ways to Register - Registration deadline is June 15, 2018

Please make cheque payable to NL Continuing Legal Education

By Mail:

NL Continuing Legal Education
P.O. Box 1028
St. John's, NL A1C 5M3

By Fax or Telephone

f: (709) 722-8902
t: (709) 758-0817

By E-mail:

cle@lawsociety.nf.ca

Your space will not be confirmed until payment is received.

Refunds will not be issued for cancellations after June 15, 2018

Registration Form – Please Note: Space is Limited

Please register me for the “*I Don't Want to Go!*” seminar scheduled for **Thursday, June 21, 2018** at 9:00 am – 4:30 pm at the Law Society Building, 3rd Floor, 196-198 Water Street.

Name / Firm: _____

Telephone: _____

Registration Fee: \$287.50 (\$250.00 + 15% HST)

HST # R108086463

Registration Type:

In Person Webinar

Registration Includes:

1. Seminar attendance
2. Sandwiches and light refreshments (for in-person attendees)

N.B. Subject to the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Requirements, this seminar would constitute 6.5 hours of eligible CLE activities.

“I Don’t Want to Go!”
Cases Where Children Resist Post-Separation Contact with a Parent

Nicholas Bala
Faculty of Law, Queen’s University, Kingston, ON

Barbara Jo Fidler, Ph.D., C.Psych., Acc.FM.
Families Moving Forward, Toronto, ON

Working Agenda

- I. Overview of Day
- II. Understanding & Minimizing Cognitive Bias
- III. Differentiation of Parent-Child Contact Problems
 - Prevalence & Gender
 - Parental Alienation as a Syndrome or DSM diagnosis
- IV. Consequences of Alienation: Research Update
- V. Early Identification & Legal Responses
 - Preventative Legal Measures
 - Suggestions for Parenting Plan Orders
 - Promoting Change & Avoiding Delay
 - Role of Lawyers
 - Role of Courts
- VI. Views of the Child, Adolescent Brain & Decisional Capacity
- VII. Differential Approach for Assessment & Intervention
 - Continuum of Interventions for Mild & Some Moderate Cases
 - Multi-Faceted Family Therapy
 - Key Components, Considerations & Goals
 - Importance of Parenting Plan Orders
 - Overview of Continuum of Interventions for More Severe Cases
 - Severe Alienation, Emotional Harm & Crossover Cases
 - Custody Reversal: One Option for Severe Cases – Risks & Benefits
 - Family Bridges
 - Relevant Court Decisions
 - Advising on When and How to Say: “I’ll see you when you want to see me”