



Family Mediation Canada / Médiation Familiale Canada

Dynamics of Divorce and High Conflict Custody Disputes

A FAMILY MEDIATION CANADA WEBINAR

Presented by Donald Saposnek

Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 2:00 – 4:00pm Eastern

FMC MEMBERS \$139; NON-MEMBERS \$159

Description: This webinar will explore the roots of the relationship dynamics that lead to high-conflict divorces. We will begin with the way that the divorce decision gets made and the process that follows it, and then examine the key factors within the spousal relationship, both pre- and post-divorce, that predictably lead to protracted high-conflict custody disputes. Then, we will discover how external advocates (lawyers, therapists, extended family and friends, and new partners) unwittingly contribute to the conflict. We will also probe how the children themselves functionally contribute to the conflict, and how other key social phenomena also enhance relationship conflict. We will end with practical strategies for supporting parents to minimize their entry into the stressful world of high-conflict divorce.

Participants will be able to:

1. Articulate 3 key factors that contribute to high conflict divorces;
2. Explain how other helping professionals can make things worse;
3. Describe how children contribute to their parents' custody disputes;
4. Present to parents several ways to mitigate their divorce becoming high conflict.



Donald T. Saposnek, Ph.D., is a clinical-child psychologist and family therapist in practice since 1971, a child custody and family mediator, and a national and international trainer and consultant in child psychology and mediation since 1977. He was director of the family courts services in Santa Cruz County for 17 years and has mediated over 5,000 custody disputes. He is the author of the classic text, *Mediating Child Custody Disputes: A Strategic Approach* (1983/1998 Rev., Jossey-Bass/Wiley), co-author of *Splitting America: How Politicians, Super PACs and the News Media Mirror High Conflict Divorce* (2012, HCI Press) and co-author of *The Child Support Solution: Unhooking Custody from Support* (2019, CSS Press). He serves on the Editorial Boards of several international journals of conflict resolution, is Editor-in-Chief of the Academy of Professional Family Mediators' publications and has published extensively in the professional literature on divorce mediation and child psychology. He taught on the Psychology Faculty at the University of California, Santa Cruz, for 41 years, and is an Adjunct Professor at Pepperdine University School of Law, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution since 2009.

His website is: www.donsaposnek.com.

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Box 46003 Quail Ridge PO, Kelowna, BC V1V 0B1 Phone: 778-674-4362 Toll free 1-877-269-2970

admin@fmc.ca www.fmc.ca

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