



MACKENZIE CLINIC

Foundations for Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations

Course Instructors:

Shely Polak, PhD, MSW, RSW, Acc. FM.
Michael Saini, PhD, MSW, RSW

Learn how to conduct evidence-informed Parenting Plan Evaluations (also referred to as Child Custody Evaluations/Parenting Plan Assessments).

This course is geared towards experienced mental health practitioners who want to add this unique skill set to their area of practice.

This course is offered using an ***asynchronous learning model*** to fit your busy working schedule!

Course Details

- 40 hours over 10 weeks of asynchronous learning (includes: video lectures, readings, case examples, assignments)
- Monthly 'live' virtual meetings with the course instructors
- Certificate of Completion

Online Course Opens: October 18th, 2021

Summary

Due to the complex nature of child custody disputes, Courts often request the involvement of a mental health professional to assist and provide recommendations on optimal parenting plans for children and families post separation and divorce. In ten online modules, you will learn the key skills involved in conducting evidence-informed parenting plans. This course will give you the tools needed to assess risk and protective factors based on data collected through parent and child interviews, observation and collateral sources.

Participants will learn:

- Ethical, legal and clinical issues relevant to parenting-plan evaluations
- Relevant standards and guidelines to guide the work products
- Risk and protective factors to consider for developing parenting plans post-separation
- Procedure for data collection including conducting forensic interviews with parents and children, conducting parent-child observations and interviewing collateral sources
- Structure and tone of report writing
- Testifying in Court

And more...

Cost: \$1399 + HST

Register at <https://mental-health-professionals-and-law.teachable.com>

"This was an excellent course...Drs Polak and Saini did an excellent job conveying this complex line of work in a well organized manner"

"Love that I could do this at my own pace"

"The instructors kept me engaged and eager to learn more."

Dr. Shely Polak is registered social worker and accredited family mediator with over 10 years of experience in high conflict coparenting in separating and divorcing families. She is the director of a private practice specializing in forensic clinical services including parenting plan evaluations, family mediation, voice of the child reports, parenting coordination, multi-faceted family therapy with families experiencing parent-child contact problems and other therapeutic services for children and families impacted by divorce. Dr. Polak serves as adjunct faculty at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto. She has published peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters and is a frequent presenter at national and international conferences. Dr. Polak is President of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Ontario Chapter.

Dr. Michael Saini is a Professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto and holds the endowed Factor-Inwentash Chair in Law and Social Work and the Co-Director of the Combined J.D. and M.S.W. program. He provides risk management consultation for working with families involved in high conflict child custody disputes; he leads parent groups for separated families; he provides parent coaching; and for the past 20 years, he has been conducting custody evaluations and assisting children's counsel for the Office of the Children's Lawyer, Ministry of the Attorney General in Ontario. He has over 100 publications, including books, book chapters, government reports, systematic reviews and peer-reviewed journal articles. Dr. Saini sits on the Board of Directors of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC).