

Joan Sinclair, MSW, RSW, Acc.FM

SOCIAL WORKER • FAMILY MEDIATOR • COUNSELLOR

Member Ontario Association of Family Mediation, Family Mediation Canada, Ontario College of Certified Social Workers

QUALIFICATIONS

- Knowledge and experience in working with separation, divorce and family conflict
- Dispute resolution training and experience
- Superior communication and interpersonal skills
- Knowledge of child development
- Advanced mediation practitioner
- Working knowledge of the family law system
- Ability to work collaboratively in a multi-disciplinary setting
- Positive attitude and willingness to work within the legal system
- Membership in relevant professional organizations
- Cross-cultural experience
- Clinical experience
- Experience and aptitude in working with individuals, couples and families
- Strong evaluative and analytical skills
- Advanced interviewing and writing skills

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Family mediation, Accredited Family Mediator
- Ontario court experience
- Child/family assessment counselling
- Trauma intervention
- Employee/employer dispute resolution
- Interdisciplinary team experience
- Inner-city multicultural, intergenerational experience
- Management experience
- Hospital experience

EDUCATION

- University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, M.S.W.
- Ryerson Polytechnical University, Toronto, Ontario, B.S.W. (Hon.)
- McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, School of Social Work

NATURE OF PRACTICE

Mediation:

- Comprehensive family mediation includes: parenting plan, resolution of assets and debts, equalization, child and spousal support where applicable
- Memorandum of understanding
- Parent/adolescent conflicts
- Employee/employer disputes

Individual, Couple and Family:

- Provide support and treatment using appropriate approaches (see below)
- Trauma intervention

Assessment:

- Assess child and family dynamics and establish need for service
- Child custody and access assessment
- Develop diagnostic basis for treatment plan

Group Work:

- Facilitate parent education and support for parents of children and youth
- Domestic violence perpetrator, group facilitator

THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES

Comprehensive Family Mediation (Parenting Plan and Finances, including child and spousal support); Systemic, Cognitive, Behavioural, Holistic, EMDR, Focusing, Psychosocial, Solution-Focused, Imago, Psycho-educational,

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1992 – Present: Private Practice

Counsellor/Social Worker/Mediator/Assessor with a strong focus on marriage and divorce counselling, social (family, adolescent/parent, employee/employer) mediations, communication skills, child custody and access assessments, parent support and education groups, relationship group, domestic violence (perpetrator) group.

1996 –September 2003: Children's Lawyers Office

Social Work/Clinical Agent. Child custody and access assessments on behalf of the Ministry of the Attorney General, representing children in families where the court orders a neutral third party expert to investigate the needs and best interests of the children.

1998 – Present: Parent Information Project and Family Information Roster Member

Facilitator. The objectives of both the parent information program and the family information sessions are: to help parents understand the common effects that parental separation has on adults and children; to discuss the stress children can experience if they find themselves caught in the middle of parental conflict; to take some of the mystery out of family law and the court process and to discuss methods other than going to court for resolving custody, access and support issues.

1994 1995: Wellesley Hospital

Interim Clinical Coordinator Social Work

Responsible for organizing and coordinating the department of social work. Major responsibilities included: departmental development, human resources, volunteer management, continuous quality improvement, client-centred/patient care consultation and support to professional staff as needed, administration and liaison between the Wellesley Hospital and faculties of social work.

Clinician collaborated with member of multidisciplinary health team in planning and provision of services to renal patients and their families provided supportive, adjustment to illness and instrumental counselling.

1992 – 1994: York Centre for Children Youth and Families

Social worker. Represented families as a member of the multidisciplinary team. Assessment for child/youth and family dynamics and established need for service. Developed diagnostic basis for treatment plans and provided that treatment. Facilitated parent education and parent support groups. Liaised with significant others, agencies and professionals involved.

1987-1991: Toronto Board of Education, Parent Worker

Provided information referral and support to a multicultural, multilingual community of parents and caregivers of pre-schoolers. Supervised BSW and ECE students. Coordinated a loosely structured daily routine for a registry of more than 100 families. Developed an intergenerational environment for the above mentioned community including parents, seniors, caregivers, pre-school and school-age children.

AFFILIATIONS

Ontario Association Family Mediators (OAFM); Family Mediation Canada (FMC)

Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers

CONTACT

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