

## **BARBARA ANDERSON M.S.W.,R.S.W. ACC FM (OAFM)**

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{ [HYPERLINK "http://www.mississaugacounselling.com"](http://www.mississaugacounselling.com) }  
niagararelationshiphealthcentre.com

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### **Mediation Services**

I provide a mediation service for separating couples or co-parents in conflict to create parenting plans that work. I work with couples and their legal representatives to reach settlement of some or all of their separation issues to assist in the development of legal separation agreement.

### **Collaborative Law**

In collaborative law cases I can act as a coach, child expert, mediator, or facilitator to assist the collaborative team in working efficiently to provide the best possible service to families who choose the collaborative law approach to separation. I can also act as a Parenting Coordinator to provide ongoing support for families after their separation and divorce.

## **Parenting Coordinator**

When conflict is high and co-parents have difficulty make decisions or following a plan I can act as a coordinator to support the family, mediate issues that arise, and assist in keeping communication constructive and child focused. This is a more long term relationship that begins with initial sessions with the family members to determine suitability and then a written contract is prepared. When and if arbitration is required the coordinator will refer the parents to a qualified family law lawyer arbitrator for the arbitration of issues. Following the arbitration, the coordinator will resume the coordination role of mediation and counselling support.

## **Section 30 Assessments**

When an assessment of the best interests of the child or children is required I provide an assessment service that is thorough, documented, neutral, and precise with recommendations that assist in the settlement of matters either through negotiation with legal representatives or through litigation. I have completed hundreds of assessments over twenty years of practice and I am familiar with all stages of the litigation process as a designated Expert Witness in the area of child custody and access.

## **Trainer**

I have been an active participant as a Board Member and Chair of several professional organizations such as the Ontario Association for Family Mediation, the Hamilton/Halton Collaborative Practice Group, and the Ontario Collaborative Law Foundation for many years. In this capacity as a trainer in collaborative law I have provided training with Marion Korn, Level II Training 2003, and Interdisciplinary Training in Collaborative Law with Rick Shields in 2008, 2009 and 2014 and 2015 as part of an interdisciplinary training team with a family law practitioner and a financial planner. I have completed the Train the Trainers Courses provided by Richard Shields in adult education and professional training and have developed skills in the area of providing training and education to adults. I co-taught the Family Mediation Certificate Course through York University with Richard Shields and Antoinette Clarke until 2018. As of 2018 I am the co-director of the Ontario Family Mediation Training Academy with Richard Shields LLb.

## **Office of the Children's Lawyer**

### **Clinical Investigator**

I have been on the province wide panel of social workers that assist children and parents through the Office of the Children's Lawyer since 1987. I have completed hundreds of clinical investigations and have assisted lawyers in their representation of child clients.

### **Peel Regional Court Mediation Service Instructor**

I teach mediation interns at the court based mediation service located in the Peel Regional Court in Brampton Ontario. This involves teaches mediation skills to inexperienced mediator interns seeking to develop their practice. I am a mediator on the Mediator Roster for Peel and Welland Courts as of 2018.

### **Family Violence Screening**

I have received extensive training in assessing for family violence and screening tools most recently in 2016. I can provide family violence screening to mediators and arbitrators who must screen prior to undertaking mediation/arbitration with families.

### **Clinical Therapist providing Counselling services through Employee Assistance Programs**

I provide individual, relationship, and family therapy to adult and children who are suffering from depression, anxiety, marital difficulty, child parent conflict, bereavement, infidelity, substance abuse, and crisis and trauma of all kinds. I am part of a network both locally and internationally of EAP companies, school boards, and corporate offices who contract my services for their employees.

### **Education**

Master of Social Work 1992 University of Toronto

Major: Couple and Family Therapy

Practicums at Oolagen Adolescent Services and George Hull Centre for Families

Bachelor of Arts Psychology 1979 York University

Mediation and Advanced Mediation Training 1992 University of Toronto

Advanced Mediation Training Family Mediation Canada 1993

Mediation Internship at 311 Jarvis Family Court under Antoinette Clarke 1997

100 hours of mediation and fie completed cases

Collaborative Law Training Level 1 and Level II in 2003

Collaborative Law Interdisciplinary Training 2006

Collaborative Law Facilitator Training with Linda Solomon 2006

Child Welfare Mediation Training and certificate 2006

Parent Coordination Training and Family Arbitration Training Barbara Fidler and Hilary Linton 2007

Family Law for Family Arbitrators Rick Shields April 2008

Family Violence Screening Training Antoinette Clarke and Darlene Murphy May 2008

Train the Trainers Rick Shields May 2009

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Personality Disorder Trainings 2011

Family Violence Training 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

Certified Relational Couple Therapist 2016 Terry Real

EMDR Trauma Treatment 2017 and 2018

### **Professional Associations**

Ontario College of Social Work

Ontario Association of Social Workers

Ontario Association for Family Mediation

Former Chair of the Hamilton/Halton Collaborative Practice Group