



# Arizona Chapter of AFCC Family Court Orientation & Training

## September 6, 2024

### 9:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law  
111 East Taylor Street Phoenix, AZ 85004

**9:00 – 10:15**

#### **NEW LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS**

Presiding Judge Ronda Fisk  
Honorable Jim Drake  
Honorable Bradley Astrowsky  
Gregg Woodnick, Attorney  
David Weinstock, J.D., Ph.D.

Learn about new developments in family law, courts, and therapeutic practices, and gain insight from experts who are at the forefront of these issues.

**10:30 – NOON**

#### **BEYOND WISHES: UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FORENSIC INTERVIEWING IN CUSTODY DETERMINATIONS**

Cortney Simmons, Ph.D.  
Jennifer Ingalls, Childhelp Forensic Interviewer

In addition to being the most impacted person in the family, Arizona law requires that the Court consider the wishes of a child in custody actions. Recent legislative efforts to establish a set age for children to decide their living arrangements keep being introduced. This presentation will explore the developmental factors that shape a child's ability to participate in legal decision-making and parenting time, as well as the current practices used by forensic interviewers in Arizona to obtain accurate information about the children's wishes from the children themselves. Specific questions that will be addressed include:

- Under what circumstances should the Court listen to the wishes of the child?
- How is a child's opinion properly elicited?
- How to mitigate negative consequences of involving a child in such a decision.

**NOON – 1:00**

**BOX LUNCH PROVIDED BY AZAFCC**

**1:00 – 2:30**

#### **UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT AUTISM AND OTHER NEURODIVERSITY HAVE ON THE DYNAMICS OF PARENTING, SCHEDULES, AND LEGAL DECISION-MAKING**

Jennifer Gatt, Ph.D.  
David Jefferson, Advocate  
Tara Welker, Ph.D.

We will delve into the unique needs of children on the autism spectrum, with an intellectual disability, or who present with other developmental disabilities and how these conditions can impact the dynamics of parenting time schedules and legal decision-making considerations.

Attendees will gain an understanding of the unique challenges faced by children with special needs in the context of divorce, highlighting the importance of appropriate evaluations and parent education and engagement in ensuring appropriate services and supports are put in place. We will also explore avenues for optimizing environments and ways parents and the forensic community can support children with autism spectrum disorder or other neurodiversity who have two homes.

**2:45 – 4:15**

#### **INTRODUCTION TO TREATMENT COURT IN ARIZONA**

Erin Ballos, M.Ed., Yuma County Superior Court  
Lauren Lindquist, MSW, Maricopa County Superior Court

Treatment courts, also known as problem solving courts, are considered the most successful justice intervention for people with substance use disorders and mental health disorders. In this session, you will learn about the different types of treatment courts in Arizona and how to refer clients into these programs.

**CLICK TO REGISTER**

**\$125 FOR AZAFCC MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS**

**\$75 FOR FULL TIME STUDENTS**

**5.75 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION**