

BARBARA JO FIDLER, Ph.D., Acc.FM.

Registered Psychologist

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Dr. Fidler received her Bachelor of Arts (Honours Psychology) from York University in 1978, her Masters of Arts Degree in Developmental Psychology from San Francisco State University in 1980, and her Ph.D. in Clinical Development Psychology from York University in 1986. Approved internships were completed at the Hincks Treatment Centre (1981-1982), the Department of Child and Family Studies, Clarke Institute (1982-1984), and the Family Court Clinic, Clarke Institute (1984-1986). Previous employment settings included Family Guidance Centre (1986) and the Toronto Family Court Clinic, Clarke Institute (1986-1988). She is an accredited mediator (OAFM).

Dr. Fidler has worked with separating and divorcing families, and in particular those disputing custody and access since 1982. Her doctoral research explored children's adjustment in custody and access disputing families. Dr. Fidler has been in private practice since 1988. She has been actively involved in the development and training of Parenting Coordination services. She was appointed to the AFCC Task Force charged with developing guidelines and standards of practice for Parenting Coordination. Dr. Fidler is on the editorial board of the *Family Court Review*. She is currently Past President of *AFCC Ontario* and a member of the *High Conflict Forum* in Toronto and *Family Solutions*.

Dr. Fidler is a frequent presenter to the judiciary, family bar, mental health professionals and law and mediation students on high conflict families and related topics. She has published in the areas of separation/divorce, parenting plans and residential schedules, parent-child contact problems and parenting coordination. She is co-author of four books: *Child Custody Assessments (2008)*, *Challenging Issues in Child Custody Disputes (2008)*, and *Responding to Emotional Harm of Children in High Conflict Separations (in press 2013)* - Guides for Legal and Mental Health Professionals - and *Children Who Resist Post-Separation Parental Contact: A Differential Approach to Children Resisting Post-Separation Contact (2013)*. Dr. Fidler and Professor Nicholas Bala are guest co-editors of a special issue of the *Family Court Review* on child alienation (January, Vol. 48, 2010). A complete list of professional presentations and publications may be found in her CV.

Dr. Fidler's current practice includes mediation, mediation/arbitration, arbitration, parenting coordination, consultation to parents and providing expert testimony related to family law matters. Her practice also includes parent education and therapy with children, adolescents, individuals, couples/marital and families. She provides group and individual consultation to mental health professionals in the areas of child, martial/couple, individual and family therapy, family mediation, custody/access assessments, parenting coordination, and arbitration. Dr. Fidler conducts training in parenting coordination, child custody assessments, mediation,

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voice of the child and interviewing children, and interventions with children who reject or resist parent contact.

In her private practice since 1988, Dr. Fidler has been involved with more than 1500 families involved in child custody and access disputes. She has conducted more than 250 custody/access assessments and more than 800 cases involving mediation, mediation/arbitration, arbitration, parenting coordination or parent-child contact problems. She has qualified as an expert in Court in connection with her own custody/access assessments, critiques of other child custody assessments and with respect to custody/access assessment methodology, separation-divorce, high-conflict, parent-child contact problems, including parent-child contact problems (including parental alienation) and the developmental needs of very young children in divorced families.

Dr. Fidler was registered as a Psychologist in Ontario in 1987. She holds memberships in the following professional organizations: The College of Psychologists of Ontario (#2020); Canadian Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology; Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (and the Ontario Chapter); Canadian Psychological Association; and American Psychological Association.

Dr. Fidler is on the editorial board of the *Family Court Review*. She is co-founder of *Family Solutions and Families Moving Forward* and maintains an independent practice. Dr. Fidler is Past President of AFCC Ontario (2011-2012) and currently sits on the BOD of *Overcoming Barriers*, a nonprofit organization. She received the AFCC Ontario Distinguished Service President's Award in October 2015.

Dr. Fidler acts as Chair of a Task Force struck by the College of Psychologists of Ontario in 2012 to provide advice to its membership and to the College with respect to child custody related practice. Since December 2013, she has been a member of a joint OCJ-SCJ Court Committee on family court-related assessments.