

JOHN ANDREW BUTT, B.A. (Hon.), M.Sc. Registered Marriage and Family Therapist

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OVERVIEW OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Graduate of the University of Guelph with a **Master of Science, Marriage and Family Therapy** (1992).
- Experience conducting *Parent Contact & Decision-Making (Custody/Access) investigations and assessments*, continuous since 1996 (**500+ files**)
- **Appointed to the Clinical Panel** of the Office of the Children's Lawyer, continuous since 1998.
- **Qualified as an Expert Witness** by the Ontario Courts to give opinion evidence on the best interests of children in Parenting Time/Decision-Making/Contact disputes.
- Former **Graduate/Post-Graduate Instructor**, Certificate Program in Couple and Family Therapy Studies, University of Guelph.
- **25+ years** post-graduate clinical experience working with parents and children dealing with separation and divorce.

EDUCATION and PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

2008	Parenting Coordination Foundations. Toronto, Ontario.
2003	Alternative Dispute Resolution: Mediation and Negotiation, Level 1 & 2. Conrad Grebel College, University of Waterloo.
1996	Registered Marriage and Family Therapist (Canadian Registry #23238), Canadian Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.
1990-92	Master of Science, Marriage and Family Therapy. University of Guelph, Ontario.
1985-88	Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Psychology. University of Waterloo, Ontario.

CURRENT WORK EXPERIENCE

Sept 96 - **Clinician**, Office of the Children's Lawyer, Ministry of
Present the Attorney General, Toronto, Ontario.

Appointed to the Clinical Panel, a body of select Clinicians deemed specialists in family and parent-child dynamics with particular expertise in the investigation of the Best Interests of children in Parenting Time & Decision-Making Responsibility disputes, (Parenting Plan/Custody & Access) pursuant to s. 112 or s. 89 of the *Courts of Justice Act*.

- Appointed consecutively since 1998.
- **Qualified as an Expert Witness** 20+ times on child custody and access matters by the Ontario Court of Justice, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, and the Ontario Superior Court of Justice – Family Court.

August 00 - **Best Interests of the Child Services**, Brantford, Ontario.
Present

- **Parenting Time/Decision Making Assessments (Parenting Plan/Custody & Access)**: Pursuant to a Court Order under S. 30 CLRA or by private agreement between the parties – conduct comprehensive assessments and consult on the best interests of children in family dispute matters.
- **Voice of the Child Reports**: Pursuant to private retainer and/or Court Order, conduct and prepare focused reports of the views of children involved in Parenting Time/Responsibility disputes.

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

2014 – Present	Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), (Parent Organization and the Ontario Chapter)
2017 – Present	Canadian Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
1996 - 2017	American/Ontario Assoc'n for Marriage and Family Therapy

PAST RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Feb '13 - **Post-Graduate University Instructor**, University of Guelph,
June '15 Ontario. *"Families in Transition: Divorce, Single Parenting, and Re-Marriage"*.

June '04 - **Police Constable (Auxiliary)**, Brantford Police Service, Brantford,
Sept '12 Ontario.

- Sept '02 - **University Instructor**, Wilfrid Laurier University (Brantford
Apr '05 Campus), Brantford, Ontario.
Abnormal Psychology (2002); Behavior Modification (2004);
Adolescent Development (2005).
- Jan '95 - **Individual, Couple and Family Counsellor**, Family Services
Nov '04 of Hamilton-Wentworth/Family Services EAP. Hamilton, Ontario.
- Oct '93 - **Mental Health Counsellor**, Bruce Primary Mental Health
Dec '94 Counselling Service. Walkerton, Ontario.
- May '93 - **Social Worker**, Department of Social Work, Child and Family
Aug '93 Team, Woodstock General Hospital. Woodstock, Ontario.
- Nov '92 - **Marriage and Family Therapist**, Marriage and Family Services of
Mar '93 Haldimand-Norfolk. Simcoe, Ontario.
- May '92 - **Marriage and Family Therapy Intern**, Department of Family and
Sept '92 Community Medicine, University of Toronto.
- Sept '90 - **Marriage and Family Therapy Intern**, Marriage and Family
Apr '92 Therapy Centre, University of Guelph. Guelph, Ontario.
- June '89 - **Family Services Co-Ordinator**, Portage Therapeutic Community,
June '90 Drug Treatment Centre and Open Custody. Elora, Ontario.
- May '88 - **Probation Officer**, Ministry of Correctional Services, Guelph
June '89 Probation and Parole. Guelph, Ontario.
- Feb '86 - **Child Care Worker**, Casatta Cambridge Open Custody.
May '88 Cambridge, Ontario.

PROFESSIONAL CONTINUING CLINICAL EDUCATION

August 9, 2022

"Children's Voices in Cases Involving Parent-Child Contact Problems."
Presented by Ms. Mindy Mitnick, AFCC Webinar.

July 7, 2022

"Integrating Diversity Considerations with the New Guidelines in Parenting
Time Evaluations." Presented by Dr. Harris-Britt and Ms. Andrew Jones.
AFCC DEI Webinar.

June 21, 2022

"Resist and Refuse Cases: Making the Case to the Court." Presented by
Mr. Larry Braunstein, Esq. AFCC Webinar.

February 24, 2022

“Anti-Black Racism: Impacts, Advocacy, and Identity Information An Anti-Black Racism Approach.” Clinical Panel Skills Training Webinar. Office of the Children’s Lawyer.

January 20, 2022

“A Mediative Approach to Adult Children of Divorce.” Presented by the Honourable Mme. Justice Himel, Ms. M. Kerr, and Dr. S. Polak. AFCC-O Webinar.

January 18, 2022

“Affirming Family Courts for Transgender and Gender-Expansive Youth and Their Families: Discussion and Best Practices for Family Court Practitioners.” Presented by Dr. K. Kuvalanka, Ms. C. Bellis, and Mr. A Orr. AFCC DEI Webinar.

January 12, 2022

“Interviewing Children with Non-Normative Needs and Unique Considerations.” Presented by Dr. Ann Ordway. AFCC Webinar.

November 2, 2021

“Access to Justice: Recognizing the Rights of Children under the UN Convention”. The Honourable Mme. Justice Freya Kristjanson and Ms. Caterina Tempesta, Chairpersons. Law Society of Ontario Webinar.

October 26, 2021

“Exploring Anti-Racism and Issues of Diversity in Parenting Dispute Evaluations”. Presented by Dr. Elaine Brown-Spencer. Clinical Panel Skills Training Webinar. Office of the Children’s Lawyer.

October 15, 2021

“Family Law in 2021: Broadening Our Lens.” AFCC-O Annual Conference. Virtual delivery.

October 5, 2021

“Domestic Violence and Co-Parenting: Child-Centered Strategies for Navigating Difficult Circumstances”. Panel discussion with Ms. M. Barr, Dr. A. Harris-Britt, Judge M. Martinez, and Ms. C. Holmes. Webinar sponsored by Our Family Wizard.

October 5, 2021

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training: “Identifying and Addressing Micro-Aggressions.” AFCC Webinar. Presented by Dr. Lindsey Davis.

June 21, 2021

“AFCC-O Parenting Plan Guide and Template: Resources for Lawyers to Facilitate Resolution”. Presented by Professor Nicholas Bala, The Honourable Mme. Justice Andrea Himel, & Ms. Deborah Alton. AFCC-O Webinar.

May 20, 2021

“Children’s Rights and the UNCR: Beyond the Voice of the Child”. Presented by The Honourable Mme. Justice Kristjanson, Ms. Caterina Tempesta, & Ms. Anamika Baijnath. AFCC-O Webinar.

February 10, 2021

“Navigating the New Divorce Act and Related Changes to the CLRA”.
Presented by Dr. Rollie Thompson and Dr. Michael Saini. Clinical Panel
Skills Training Webinar, Office of the Children’s Lawyer.

January 23, 2021

“Introduction to Federal Family Law Amendments”. On-line training
module, Department of Justice, Canada.

December 15, 2020

“Shared Parenting Research 2020: The Envelope Please...” Presented by
Dr. Kline Pruett. AFCC Webinar Archives.

November 19, 2020

“Providing Effective Testimony for Mental Health Professionals.”
Presented by Mr. Mike Kretzmer. AFCC Webinar Archives.

October 13, 2020

Voice of the Child: An International Perspective.” Presented by Dr. Rachel
Birnbaum. AFCC Webinar Archives.

September 16, 2020

“Dealing With Difficult Clients: Whose Side Are You On Anyway?”
Presented by Mr. Jeff Soilson. AFCC Webinar Archives.

August 19, 2020

“Sociopaths: The Con Artists of Family Law.” Presented by Mr. Bill Eddy.
AFCC Webinar Archives.

May 14, 2020

“OCL Investigations During the Pandemic”. Clinical Panel Skills Training
Webinar, Office of the Children’s Lawyer.

May 7, 2020

“Pandexit and Family Justice: Transitioning Out of the Crisis”. Presented
by The Honourable Mr. Justice Philip Clay *et al.* AFCC-Ontario Webinar

February 11, 2020

“Current Issues in Relocation.” Presented by Ms. M. Mitnick. AFCC
Webinar Archives.

January 16, 2020

“Coparenting Research Year In Review”. Presented by Dr. Michael Saini.
AFCC Webinar.

November 19, 2019

“Children’s Lawyer Reports, Voice of the Child Reports, and Interviewing
Techniques for Children”. Clinical Panel Skills Training Webinar, Office of
the Children’s Lawyer.

May 7, 2019

“Not Just Alienation”. Presented by Dr. Marsha Kline Pruett & Dr. Leslie
Drozd. AFCC Webinar.

January 9, 2019

“Highlights of 2018 in Family Court Research: Family Court Review and
More”. AFCC Webinar, presented by Dr. Robert Emery, Editor, Family
Court Review.

November 15, 2018

- “Complexities of Culture in Divorce and Separation”. Presented by Dr. Gitu Bhatia. AFCC Webinar.
- May 22, 2018
- “Examining Bias in Clinical Investigations”. Clinical Panel Skills Training, Office of the Children’s Lawyer. Waterloo, ON.
- May 15, 2018
- “A SAFeR Approach to Parenting Arrangements in Cases Involving Intimate Partner Violence”. Presented by Loretta Frederick, JD. AFCC Webinar.
- March 14, 2018
- “An Evidence-Informed Approach to Alienation”. Presented by Dr. Michael Saini. AFCC Webinar.
- October 20, 2017
- “Breaking Down Barriers: Targeting Resources to Meet Families’ Needs”. AFCC Ontario Annual Conference. Toronto, Ontario.
- September 15, 2017
- “Experience of Children Caught in Conflict: Making Room for Children’s Voices.” Hamilton High Conflict Forum, Hamilton. ON.
- June 21, 2017
- “Views of the Child Report in Ontario – A Symposium.” Law Foundation of Ontario and King’s College, Western University. Toronto, Ontario (Webinar).
- May 11, 2017
- “Unveiling the Canadian Bar Association’s Child Rights Toolkit: A Child Rights Framework”. Access to Justice For Children Conference – Child Rights in Action, Vancouver, B.C. (Webinar).
- October 21, 2016
- “Navigating the Steps to Family Resolutions: New Directions in a State of Uncertainty”. AFCC Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario.
- September 29, 2016
- “Intimate Partner Violence in Custody and Access Cases”. Office of the Children’s Lawyer Clinical Panel Training, Kitchener.
- September 23, 2016
- “Courageous Conversations: High Conflict Families, Domestic Violence, and Differentiation”. Presentation by Dr. Peter Jaffe and the Hamilton High Conflict Forum, Hamilton, Ontario.
- February 10, 2016
- “Training for Ontario Views of the Child Reporters”. Law Society of Upper Canada. Toronto, Ontario.
- September 17, 2015
- “Managing the many faces of high conflict families”. Presentation by Mr. Bill Eddy. Sponsored by the Hamilton High Conflict Forum, Hamilton.
- June 19, 2015
- “Domestic Violence & Custody/Access Evaluations”. Office of the Children’s Lawyer Clinical Panel Training, Toronto.

May 5, 2015

“Modern Family: Symposium on Child Custody and Access”. Professional training offered by the Law Society of Upper Canada, Toronto.

October 17, 2014

Special Issues in the Courts: Addictions, Special Needs Children, Mental Health, & Alienation/Estrangement. AFCC Annual Conference. London.

October 9, 2014

In-house clinical skills training. Office of the Children’s Lawyer. Hamilton.

May 28-31, 2014

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Annual Conference. Toronto, Ontario. Workshops included: “Grandparent and Other Third Party Disputes”; “Overnights and Young Children: Attachment and Parent Involvement”; “Developing Parenting Plans that Grow with the Family”.

March 28, 2014

“Parental Gatekeeping: An Alternative Approach to Navigating High Conflict Family Law Disputes.” High Conflict Forum, Toronto.

October 28, 2013

“Best Practices with Diversity and Multi-cultural Clients”. Clinical skills training presented by the Office of the Children’s Lawyer. Hamilton.

April 19 & 20, 2013

“Children Who Resist Post-Separation Parental Contact: Concepts, Controversies, Assessment and Intervention”. Professional training by Dr. Barbara Fidler and Jacqueline Vanbetlehem. Toronto.

November 30, 2012

“Best Practices: Domestic Violence and Conducting Disclosure Meetings”. Clinical Panel Skills Training. Office of the Children’s Lawyer.

October 23 & 24, 2012

“Children Caught in the Crossfire: Responding Effectively to High Conflict Families in Custody Disputes”. High Conflict Forum. Toronto.

May 24, 2012

“Writing Professional Custody and Access Reports”. Clinical Investigator Training presented by the Office of the Children’s Lawyer. Hamilton.

April 19, 2012

“Emotional Harm of Children in Separation and Divorce: The Clinical and Legal Conundrum” as presented by Dr. Jean Clinton and Professor Nicholas Bala. Toronto.

April 6, 2011

“Make Room For Daddy: Clinical Considerations and Legal Challenges for Father’s in the Family Justice System”. High Conflict Forum, Toronto.

March 2, 3, 4 & 5, 2011

“Family Law Course for Parenting Coordinators, Mediators and Assessors”. Presented by Hilary Linton, Riverdale Mediation. Toronto.

1997 through 2011

Attended 45 various training programs, clinical workshops, and/or conferences focusing on issues pertaining to child custody/access issues.