

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 *child custody and access investigations and assessments*, continuous since 1996 (**350+ files**)
- **Appointed to the Clinical Panel** of the Office of the Children's Lawyer, continuous since 1998.
- **Qualified as an Expert Witness** by the Courts to give opinion evidence on matters of child custody and access.
- **Graduate/Post-Graduate Instructor**, Certificate Program in Couple and Family Therapy Studies, University of Guelph.
- **20+ 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), Ontario 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 - **Clinical Investigator**, 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 child custody and access matters pursuant to s. 112 and s. 89 of the *Courts of Justice Act*. Appointed consecutively since 1998.

- **Qualified as an Expert Witness** 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.
- **20 +** Court appearances since 1999 to give opinion evidence on custody/access matters and best interests.

August 00 - **Private Custody and Access Assessments**, Private Practice,
Present Brantford, Ontario.

- Pursuant to a Court Order under S. 30 CLRA or by private agreement between the parties - assess, report and give opinion evidence on the best interests of children in child custody and access proceedings.

Feb 13 - **University Instructor**, Certificate Program in Couple and Family
Present Therapy Studies, University of Guelph, Ontario.

- *"Families in Transition: Divorce, Single Parenting and Re-Marriage"*. Graduate/post-graduate training on topics inclusive of custody/access evaluations, alienation, mobility, intimate partner violence, grandparent access, and parenting plans.
- www.couplefamilytherapystudies.ca

PAST CLINICAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Sept 02 - **University Instructor**, Wilfrid Laurier University (Brantford
Apr 05 Campus), Brantford, Ontario.
Abnormal Psychology ('02); Behavior Modification ('04); Adolescent Development ('05).

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

May 28-31, 2014

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Annual Conference. Toronto, Ontario. Workshops attended: "Grandparent and Other Third Party Disputes". "Shared Parenting: Fairness and Equality". "Extended Families and Step-families Following Divorce". "Issues in Parent-Child Observations in Custody Evaluations". "Overnights and Young Children: Attachment and Parent Involvement". "Developing Parenting Plans that Grow with the Family". "Testifying on Behalf of Infants: Attachment and Neuroscience".

March 28, 2014

"Parental Gatekeeping: An Alternative Approach to Navigating High Conflict Family Law Disputes." Training by the 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 Investigator Training presented by the Office of the Children’s Lawyer. Hamilton.

October 23 & 24, 2012

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

November 3, 2011

“Testifying in Court and Expert Witness Testimony”. Clinical Investigator Training presented by the Office of the Children’s. Hamilton.

April 27, 2011

“Facing the Future: Challenges for the Children’s Lawyer. Our Clients. Our Process. Our Security” including Dr. Jean Clinton on “The Impact of Toxic Stress on the Developing Brain.” Clinical Investigator Training presented by the Office of the Children’s. Toronto.

April 6, 2011

“Make Room For Daddy: Clinical Considerations and Legal Challenges for Father’s in the Family Justice System”. Training by the 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.

October 22, 2010

“Best Practices of Custody and Access Investigations”. Clinical Investigator Training presented by the Office of the Children’s. Hamilton.

April 28, 2010

“It’s All Your Fault! Managing High Conflict People Within a Legal and Clinical Context” as presented by William A. Eddy. Toronto.

April 23, 2010

“Alienation: Implications For Assessment and Treatment” as presented by Dr. Leslie Drozd and Dr. Nancy Olesen. Clinical Investigator Training sponsored by the Office of the Children’s Lawyer. Toronto.

October 27, 2009

“Joint Custody, Observations and Case Law”. Clinical Investigator Training presented by the Office of the Children’s. Hamilton.

May 21, 2009

“Improving Your Interviews With Children” as presented by Ms. Mindy Mitnick. Training presented by the Office of the Children’s Lawyer, Toronto.

April 3, 2009

“Improving the Lives of Children and Families In Conflict”. AFCC Conference. Toronto.

November 27, 2008

“Smokescreen or Fire: Allegations of Domestic Violence and Child Sexual Abuse in High Conflict Divorcing Families”. Presented by Dr. P. Jaffe and Ms. M. Mitnick. Toronto, Ontario.

October 24 & 25, 2008

“Screening For Domestic Violence and Power Imbalances”. Professional training by Mr. Gary Direnfeld and Ms. Medora Uppal, Hamilton, Ontario.

April 22, 2008

“Techniques in Interviewing”. Clinical Investigator training presented by the Office of the Children’s Lawyer. Hamilton, Ontario.

January 24 and 25, 2008

“Parenting Coordination Training: Foundations”. Professional training by Dr. Barbara Fiddler and Ms. Linda Chodos. Toronto, Ontario.

November 9, 2007

“High Conflict Divorcing Families: Practical Strategies to Prevent Alienation”. Presented by Matthew J. Sullivan, Ph.D., Toronto, Ontario.

May 30, 2007

“Legal Skills Training and Conducting Disclosure Meetings”. Clinical Investigator training presented by the Office of the Children’s Lawyer, Hamilton, Ontario.

October 17, 2006

“Conducting Valid Home Observation Visits”. Clinical Investigator training presented by the Office of the Children’s Lawyer. London, Ontario.

October 4, 2006

“Violence Hurts: Domestic Violence and Its Impact On Children” and “Parenting Plans in Family Violence Cases”. Presented by Dr. Peter Jaffe, Brantford, Ontario.

June 8, 2006

“High Performance Collaborative Law Teams”. Presented by Richard Shields, LLB. Burlington, Ontario

April 26, 2006

“Divorce Poison: Clinical and Legal Considerations of Working with Families of Alienated Children”. Presented by Dr. Richard Warshak, Toronto, Ontario.

October 19, 2005

“Joint Custody and Parental Alienation: Special Issues”. Clinical Investigator training, Office of the Children’s Lawyer, Hamilton, Ontario.

May 13, 2005

“No Easy Answers: The Long-Term Effects of Divorce on Children and Families”. Presented by Constance Ahrons, Ph.D, Ottawa, Ontario.

1997 – 2004

Attended 21 various training programs, clinical workshops, and/or conferences focusing on child custody and access issues.