

## Learn to avoid getting stuck in the middle of a family conflict

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“Mr. Levy’s experience, insight, empathy and creativity together have forged a program that works. The ‘Conflicted Separated families’ program has the potential to empower children to find their voice and grow toward greater health.”

-Benjamin D Garber, PhD  
Healthyparent.com  
Author, “Keeping Kids Out of the Middle”

“Dr. Tennies has been instrumental in assisting many chronic conflict families through her GAL work.”

- Neil Jamieson, Esq. from Prescott, Jamieson Murphy Law Group, LLC

"I was trained in the Chronically Conflicted, Separated-Family Model in 2014, and have used it since. It is the most effective means known to me of addressing forces that undermine healthy co-parenting and the child's mental health. This model empowers children to have a voice, fosters their psychological health, and supports successful co-parenting.”

- K. Hartman, LCPC, NCC

“Finding a therapist skilled with working with conflicted families is not an easy thing; I have found that a therapist using the Chronically Conflicted Family Therapy Model to be the most effective in helping children. Jeff has had excelent sucess working with my families”

- Glenn Anderson, JD, Guardian Ad Litem



**Diane A Tennies, PhD, LADC** is a psychologist specializing in forensic evaluation and also licensed as an alcohol and drug counselor in Maine. She is a past president of the Maine Psychological Association (MePA) and currently the chair of their legislative committee. Dr. Tennies obtained her PhD from the University of Maine and completed her internship at the Togus VA Medical Center. She is a rostered guardian ad litem and serves as the Vice-Chair of the Maine GAL Review Board. She conducts national trainings on topics such as substance abuse policy and organization compliance, family dynamics such as parental alienation, child maltreatment, evidence-based practices for guardians ad litem, vicarious traumatization, co-parenting dynamics and mental illness/personality disorders that impact functional parenting. Clinically, she performs court-mandated and private forensic evaluations, including civil competencies, criminal responsibility, risk assessments, parental capacity and child custody evaluations. Dr. Tennies is also a National Health Consultant for Job Corps, providing consultation on substance abuse policy implementation and compliance to Job Corps' Wellness Programs at centers in the Boston, Philadelphia and San Francisco regions for the National Office of Job Corps through a subcontract with Humanitas, Inc. in Silver Spring, MD. She may be contacted at [datphd@aol.com](mailto:datphd@aol.com) or through her website at [dianetenniesphd.com](http://dianetenniesphd.com).



**Jeffrey S. Levy, LCSW, GAL** received his MSW from University of New England and BS from the University of Maine. Jeff has been operating his private practice since 2001, and he has been rostered with the Maine courts, as a Guardian ad Litem since 2005, working with children of separated families, and volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) since 2006. Additionally, Jeff is an adoption social worker, serving as the Director of the Maine branch for China Adoption With Love. Jeff is an instructor for the Kid's First Program, providing separating parents guidance in working collaboratively for their children's best interest, and a former faculty member of the Sweetser Training Institute. Jeff is a founding member and Board Member of the Maine Collaborative Law Alliance, and has been certified as a Collaborative Divorce Coach since 2014. Jeff first developed his workshop, instructing therapists on how to work with Highly Conflicted Separated Families in 2011, and has taught his method at several locations, including at Sweetser and the University of New England. Jeff provides a supervision group that offers guidance for clinician's who are dealing with very challenging, conflicted families. Jeff previously served as the director of Camp Waban, a camp providing programming for adults and children with special needs, and was an emergency crisis worker at Crisis Response Services of York County.

Chronic Conflict Families:  
Dynamics and intervention strategies  
Learn to avoid getting stuck in the middle of a family conflict

Please complete the form below and return or sign up on-line at [jefflevylcsw.com/events](http://jefflevylcsw.com/events)

Course Cost Options

- ☐ \$149 for one attendee
- ☐ \$129 for 2-4 per attendee
- ☐ \$99 for 5 or more, per attendee
- ☐ \$59 Student rate

*Registration fee includes coffee and beverages  
at breaks and cookies in the afternoon.*

**\$10 OFF early bird if sent back by March 15th**

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Indicate below which workshop you are attending:

☐ Bangor, Maine

Friday, April 14, 2017  
Hilton Garden Inn  
250 Haskell Rd., Bangor, ME 04401

☐ Saco, Maine

Friday, April 21, 2017  
People's Heritage Bank  
3rd Floor Conference Center  
23 Industrial Park Rd, Saco, ME 04072

Are you a:

☐ Social worker ☐ LCPC ☐ Psychologist ☐ Guardian ad litem ☐ Student  
Other

This workshop has been approved for 6.5 CEs by Maine NASW and 6.5 CEUs by Maine GAL, 6.5 CEUs have been applied for to Maine Board of Psychologists.

**Return form and payment by March 15, 2017 for early bird special!**

To: Improving Futures  
110 Main St, Suite 1300 A  
Saco, ME 04072

ADA needs: We would be happy to accommodate your ADA needs;  
Please call at least two weeks prior to seminar date.

**Refund Policies:**

You may cancel up to 48 hours prior to the conference for a full refund by calling or emailing.

# Working with Chronically Conflicted Separated Families

## Learning Objectives for Training

1

Learn the top 5 reasons that counseling fails for separated family, and how to avoid them.

2

Learn about the Ethics associated with working with conflicted separated families, their lawyers and guardian ad litem.

3

Learn effective strategies to reduce stress and anxiety for children of conflicted families.

4

Therapists will learn the CCCF Model, an effective means of working with highly conflicted separated families.

5

Guardian ad Litem will learn strategies to interact with mental health professionals effectively for better outcomes.

# Chronic Conflict Families: Dynamics and intervention strategies

Presented by Jeffrey S. Levy, LCSW, GAL and Diane Tennies, PhD, LADC



## **Chronic Conflict Families: Dynamics and intervention Strategies**

8:30-10:00

- Introductions
- Learning Objectives
- Conflicted families: Research and demographics
- Family Dynamics of alignment, estrangement and enmeshment but is it alienation?

10:00 – 10:15 Break

10:15 -12:00

- Impacts of chronic conflict on children and families
- What factors interfere with co-parenting?
- Best Interest of the Children Standard
- Judicial options: mediation, status/pre-trial conferences, guardian ad litem appointments and contested hearing
- Therapists testifying: Pitfalls

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch (on your own)

Two separate tracks in afternoon for GALs and therapists.

For therapists:

1:00 – 2:15 Theoretical Foundations for CCF Approach

- Review of Family Therapy Models and theoretical grounding
- What HCSF Therapy pulls from those approaches
- What to do before you meet face to face
- Initial meeting
- The 7 questions
- Managing the flow
- When is it not appropriate
- Special situations

2:30 – 2:45 Break

2:45 – 3:30 Small Group Discussion

- Discuss difficult situations that you have experienced in your own practice, and some thoughts how you can incorporate today's information into your practice

For Guardians ad Litem:

1:00 – 2:30

- How dynamics of CCF impact GAL investigations
- Interviewing children to obtain information
- More about alignment, estrangement and enmeshment
- What are possible recommendations of GAL investigation?
- What are the elements of effective therapy for these families/children
- How to interact with therapists given new GAL rules

2:30 – 2:45 Break

2:45-3:30 Continuation of above

3:30 – 4:00 Entire Group: Wrap up, Questions and Comments