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CFI Statutory Requirements

I have been on the statewide list as an approved Child and Family Investigator (CFI) since 2014, and since going on the statewide roster, I have been appointed in over 1100 cases. Over 50% of the cases I have worked on involved allegations that include one or more of the following issues: domestic violence, substance abuse, child abuse or child sexual abuse. The families I have worked with include traditional and non-traditional family configurations, including Grandparent caregivers, three-party cases involving Grandparent(s) and Biological parent(s), Kinship or Stepparent caregivers, LGBTQIA+ parents/caregivers, Neurodiverse parents and/or children, and Incarcerated parent(s). Some of the children I have worked with identify as non-binary, transgender, are exploring their gender identity, or have been in active transition.

As required by CJD 04-08, I have completed greater than the twenty hours of initial training and greater than fifteen hours of ongoing training every five years, in the areas of (I) child sexual abuse; (II) physical abuse; (III) emotional abuse; (IV) coercive control; (V) implicit and explicit bias, including biases relating to parties with disabilities; (VI) trauma; (VII) long-term and short-term impacts of domestic violence and child abuse on children; and (VIII) victim and perpetrator behavioral patterns and relationship dynamics within the cycle of violence. Although I am qualified to conduct domestic violence screenings using the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) model, I do not provide such screenings as part of my CFI work. In addition to being licensed as an attorney in California (1990) and Colorado (2015), I hold a Master of Social Work degree and have worked as a mental health professional in clinical settings where I worked with families and children in a non-forensic context.

Child and Family Investigator Experience

Child and Family Investigator | Vanderborgh Family Law, LTD – Denver, CO 2018 – Present

Supporting families as a court-appointed, neutral investigator responsible for investigating and providing parenting time and decision-making recommendations to the court in support of the children's best interests.

Staff Attorney/CFI | Bridge to Justice – Boulder, CO 2016 – 2018

Attorney representing modest means clients in domestic relations and protection order matters. Child and Family Investigator.

Associate Attorney/CFI | Van Horn Family Law – Littleton, CO 2015 – 2016

Attorney representing clients in domestic relations cases, including stepparent adoption and relinquishment of parental rights. Child and Family Investigator.

Domestic Relations Mediator/CFI | Clear Creek Mediation, LLC – Golden, CO 2013 – 2015

Mediated civil and domestic relations matters to resolve disputes related to financial disputes and divorce or parenting time disputes. Child and Family Investigator.

Mental Health Experience

Child, Adolescent & Family Therapist | Mental Health Partners, Boulder – Boulder, CO 2021– 2022

Conducted intakes, assessments, and provided ongoing mental health treatment to children, adolescents, and families experiencing anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, family conflict, intimate partner violence, substance abuse, trauma, sexual abuse, gender identity issues.

Utilized MI, SFBT, CBT, DBT, ACT, play therapy, family reunification, and other trauma-informed modalities.

Worked within child welfare and school systems, identified community resources for clients.

Resist Refuse Dynamic in Family Law Capstone Project

Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grant Recipient

Case Manager/In-Home Behavior Therapist | Denver Children's Home – Denver, CO 2020 – 2021

Provided family therapy, individual therapy, parent skills training and utilized evidenced-based, and trauma-informed individual and family therapy skills and therapeutic interventions with adolescents and families with emotional disabilities, behavioral issues, and/or trauma, including victims of child abuse and intimate partner violence, in home-based settings.

Chaplain Vitas Innovative Hospice Care – Lakewood, CO	2012 – 2014
Provided end-of-life support and spiritual care to patients and family members. Lead community-based grief support groups.	
Chaplain Denver Health Medical Center – Denver, CO	2011 – 2013
Chaplain in the Emergency Room, Psychiatric Unit, and Intensive Care Units. Facilitated neonatal loss support groups.	
Chaplain St. Anthony Hospital – Lakewood, CO	2010 – 2011
Staff chaplain serving all areas of the hospital, including the Emergency Department and Intensive Care Units. Member of the Ethics Committee.	
Pediatric Chaplain Miller Children's Hospital – Long Beach, CA	2006 – 2007
Provided Spiritual Care to patients and families in Pediatric Intensive Care and Emergency Departments. Co-led grief and loss support group.	

Litigation Experience

Associate Attorney Pillsbury Madison & Sutro – San Diego, CA	1992 – 1994
Co-led team on multi-year complex litigation, and product liability case	
Assistant District Attorney San Diego County – San Diego, CA	1990 – 1991
Prosecutor in Family Support and Sex Crimes Units	

EDUCATION

MSW Metropolitan State University – Denver, CO	2022
Relevant Coursework: Maternal Infant Mental Health, Power, Oppression, Privilege, Clinical Integrated Practice, DSM-V, Family Therapy, Social Policy Analysis	
JD University of New Hampshire School of Law – Concord, NH	1990
MDiv Fuller Theological Seminary – Pasadena, CA	2005
BA English Wheaton College – Norton, MA	1987

RELEVANT TRAINING

Domestic Violence / Child Abuse / Child Sexual Abuse Training	
HB 23-1178 Domestic Violence and Child Abuse (DV/CA) Training	2023
Child Abuse Training Seminar MIDC PsychLaw	2023
Improving Responses in Domestic Violence Cases AFCC	2023
Understanding Coercive Control and How it Harms Children IVAT	2023
Understanding Adults Who Sexually Abuse Children Dr Graham Hill	2022
Lethality Assessment- Domestic Violence CDAC	2021
Domestic Violence Risk Needs Assessment and Domestic Violence Offender Evaluation	2021
Mandatory Reporter Training Child Protective Services, State of Colorado	2021
Child sexual abuse, evaluation, and treatment DCAC	2020
DVOMB Standards Overview DVOMB	2020
Understanding the Continuum of Sexual Behaviors in Children DCAC	2019
Mental Health Training	
Alternatives for Families: TF Cognitive Behavioral Therapy CU Boulder Center for Resilience and Well Being	2023
Alternatives for Families: Cognitive Behavior Therapy (AF-CBT) Provider Certification CU Boulder	2023
Let's Connect Parenting Intervention Training CU Boulder Center for Resilience and Well Being	2022
Intellectual and Development Disabilities (IDD) HRSA Scholars Metro State Denver	2022
Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Crisis Training Mental Health Partners	2022
Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) Mental Health Partners	2022
Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Mental Health Partners	2022
SafeTalk NAMI	2022
Let's Connect Facilitator Certification CU Boulder	2022

Trauma-Informed Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT) Provider Certification CU Boulder	2021
Maternal and Child Health HRSA Scholars Metro State Denver	2021
Adolescence: Foresight, Impulse Control, Emotional Recognition HRSA Scholars Metro State Denver	2021
Attachment Measures and Theory in Family Law Practice AFCC	2021
Integrated Care HRSA Scholars Metro State Denver	2021
Parental Alienation, Resist Refuse Dynamic AFCC	2020
Acceptance Commitment Therapy (ACT) Mental Health Partners	2020
Solution Focused Brief Therapy Denver Children's Home	2020
Structural Family Therapy Denver Children's Home	2020
Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Denver Presbyterian	2015
Motivational Interviewing Karen Alonge	2015

DEI Training

Understanding and Responding to Parent-Child Contact Problems in Family Law Matters:	
It's Not (just) About Alienation Anymore! COAFCC	2024
Affirming and Supporting LGBTQIA+ Youth and Families: Pt 1 & 2. AFCC	2024
Neurodiverse Children and Parents in Family Court AFCC	2024
Forensic Interview Training Denver Children's Advocacy Center	2024
Gender and Sex in Family Law AFCC	2023
Let's Get Uncomfortable Talking About Racism APABAC	2022
Diversity Considerations with the New Guidelines in Parenting Time Evaluations AFCC	2022
Affirming Family Courts for Transgender and Gender-Expansive Youth and Their Families AFCC	2022
Mandatory Reporter Training State of Colorado	2022

Other Training

The Unintended Consequences of Kayden's Law AFCC	2024
High Conflict Personalities in Divorce BIDC	2022
Integrating Diversity Considerations with the New Guidelines in Parenting Time Evaluations AFCC	2022
Gender Expansive Children COBAR	2022
A Child's Wishes: At What Age Can a Child Decide? BIDC	2022
Fundamentals of Conducting Child Custody Evaluations AFCC	2021
New Ways for Families Training High Conflict Institute	2021
Parenting Coordinator/Decision-Maker and Child Development AFCC	2020
Enforcing Parenting Time and Resistant Teens MDIC	2019
Minor's Counsel State of California	2018
Child and Family Investigator Training State of Colorado	2013