

**ALBERTA COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH
FAMILY LAW PRACTICE NOTE 8
OVERVIEW & UPDATE**

Held November 26, 2020

Presented by: Eileen Ailon, R. Psych. & Shams Amiry

INTENDED AUDIENCE:

This workshop is open to Registered Psychologists, Clinical Social Workers (MSW), Family Mediators, Members of the Judiciary, Family Law Bar Members, Collaborative Family Lawyers, Parenting Coordinators, and students in any of the above disciplines.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, participants should be able to:

- Understand the purpose of Practice Note 8 and its implications for mental health professionals and legal professionals
- Understand the processes for Child Custody/Parenting Evaluations, and become aware of ethical and procedural issues
- Become aware of the continuum of applications and possible pitfalls
- Highlight of the strengths, weaknesses and limitations of the Practice Note 8 process
- Understand the principles behind writing service retainer agreements, informed consent, and communicating with the Court

PROGRAM FORMAT AND SCHEDULE:

- Changes to Practice Note 8 – what is different and implications of the changes
- Highlighting the important aspects of Practice Note 8
- Overview of the assessment components
- Ethical issues and dilemmas arising from the convergence of psychological standards of practice with legal practices and procedures
- Best practices when dealing with self-represented litigants
- Responsibility to monitor and adhere to timelines prescribed by Practice Note 8
- Important considerations regarding Case Conference Meetings held to discuss resolution of the parenting issues

- Risk-management issues: service retainer agreements, informed consent, and communicating with the Court
- Views from a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench with considerations for mental-health professionals and lawyers



PRESENTER: Dr. Eileen Ailon, Psych. Bio

Eileen Ailon, R. Psych, is an experienced psychologist in the area of working both with individuals and families. She is trained in Assessment of Learning and Development, Assessment of Parenting, as well as in Mediation and Arbitration, primarily with respect to Parenting Coordination. Initially working as a psychologist in a Pediatric Hospital and with School boards, she developed a passion for and expertise in various types of psychological and psychological/educational assessment, as well as in personality assessment, including those cases that involve the assessment of the impact of trauma. Additionally, she studies the efficacy of various treatment formats to meet the needs of diverse clients.

For several decades, Eileen Ailon has been a Court appointed Assessor and has also been appointed to engage in Interventions to assist children and families who face challenging family experiences arising out of transitions such as divorce, and separation. She has been called as the Court's Expert Witness on cases of Child Custody and Parenting as well as Sexual Abuse of Children. She focuses her efforts and skills on the reduction of conflict and the promotion of better outcomes for children and hopefully their families.

Eileen Ailon has presented and given workshops to mental health professionals, lawyers and judges on issues such as : Best Practices for Interviewing Children, Reunification Interventions with Children and Parents, Alienation of Children from Parents, as well as Assessment, Interventions available and appropriate for families and children moving through conflict within families.

She has been an active member of the Psychologists Association of Alberta, the College of Alberta Psychologists, Alberta Family Mediation Society, and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, holding administrative offices and participating on a number of committees.



PRESENTER: Mr. Shams Amiry

Shams completed his BA in Political Science in 2010 at the University of Calgary, having graduated from the Honours and Co-operative Education Programs with distinction. In 2014, Shams earned his JD from the Faculty of Law at the University of Calgary. During law school, Shams participated in numerous debate competitions, Student Legal Assistance, Student Appeals Committee, the Moot Times law school newspaper, and Ambulance Chasers law school soccer team. His articles at Calgary Legal Guidance exposed Shams to various areas of law, including: criminal law, family law, immigration law, administrative law, and landlord/tenant law. After completing his articles, Shams joined Hoffman Law in 2015, where he exclusively practices family law.

Shams strives to provide his clients with tailored, cost-effective solutions to their family law problems. Although he encourages his clients to resolve matters through alternative dispute resolution, Shams often advocates for his clients in Court, where he has had success at both the Provincial Court and Court of Queen's Bench.