

# NEW WAYS FOR FAMILIES

**2 - Day Advanced Training**  
for Mental Health Professionals,  
Attorneys, Judges, and other professionals  
involved in high-conflict family law cases



**BILL EDDY**  
LCSW Esq.,  
International Speaker,  
Lawyer, Author

May 23-24, 2019 • 8:30am - 4:30pm • Registration Begins at 8:00am  
The Embassy Suites by Hilton/Denton Convention Center • Denton, TX  
CEUs and CLE (12 hours + 1 hour Ethics)

# NEW WAYS FOR FAMILIES

## DAY ONE – Seminar

### **Morning: Ethically Managing High Conflict Clients**

9:00–10:30: In order to ethically manage high-conflict clients, lawyers and other professionals must understand how they think differently about conflict. An overview will be provided of five personality disorders and their predictable patterns of high-conflict thinking and behavior, including: Borderline, Narcissistic, Histrionic, Antisocial, and Paranoid. Common cognitive distortions of these personalities will be explained, along with recent brain research. Personality issues related to domestic violence will be addressed, including discussion of Texas Family Code Sections 153.001, 85.001, 85.005, and 85.024.

10:30–10:45: BREAK

10:45–12:15: Four key methods will be presented for respectfully managing high conflict personalities in their disputes, as well as the many “negative advocates” who support their negative behavior, including family members and some professionals. This session will address lawyers’ responsibility to communicate with clients and other lawyers with respect, as well as assisting clients in making proposals and setting limits on their behavior, including discussion of how these methods help lawyers fulfill their obligations under Texas Rules of Professional Conduct: Rules 1.02, 1.03, 2.01 and 4.03.

12:15–1:15: LUNCH

### **Afternoon: New Ways for Families - Overview**

1:15–2:45: This overview is for all professionals who may use New Ways for Families, including judges, attorneys, counselors, court staff and ADR professionals (mediators, collaborative practitioners, parenting facilitators, GALs). Includes: research basis, goals, emphasis on teaching small skills in small steps, based on treatment programs for personality disorders. Video clips will be shown for each of the four steps of the program, using a sample case including two parents, two children, therapists, lawyers and a judge demonstrating the method. This session will include discussion of how it directly applies to Family Code Sections 105.009, 107.002, 107.008 and 151.001.

2:45–3:00: BREAK

3:00–4:30: The 4 New Ways conflict-reducing skills will be explained, with ways to have all professionals reinforce use of these skills with clients (lawyers and judges, as well as counselors); methods of dealing with high-conflict client resistance; managing domestic violence issues; and managing child alienation issues will be included. The many paradigm shifts of the New Ways for Families method will be reviewed. The importance and difference of each professional role will be explained and discussed. General procedural issues will be explained and discussed. Assisting parents in learning and using these skills helps fulfill their obligations under Family Code Section 151.001 and protecting their children from the threats to their health of family conflict under Section 101.009.

# NEW WAYS FOR FAMILIES

## DAY TWO – Practice

Whether or not a professional intends to use the New Ways for Families method, practicing the following skills with any potentially high conflict clients will be beneficial for the ethical practice of law and mental health. Combining them with the New Ways for Mediation method can make it easier for them to reach settlements that they will actually follow.

### 9:00–10:30: **SKILL #1: PROVIDING STRUCTURE**

- Review of New Ways method and professional roles
- The need for clear, specific and simple structure for high-conflict people

This session will include discussion of court orders for the implementation of New Ways for Families under Family Code Section 105.009.

10:30–10:45: BREAK

### 10:45–12:15: **SKILL #2: REINFORCING CLIENT SELF-MANAGEMENT**

- Why *flexible thinking* is so difficult for high-conflict families
- Why *managed emotions* and *moderate behaviors* are so hard for them
- How to present these concepts and manage resistance to using them

This session will include discussion of how these skills will help parents fulfill their obligations under Family Code Section 151.001.

12:15–1:15: LUNCH

### 1:15–2:45: **SKILL #3: TEACHING PARENTS APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE AND DISCIPLINE OF THEIR CHILDREN**

- Importance of parents being in the role of teachers of positive skills
- Importance of professionals guiding parents with empathy & respect
- Managing parent thinking, emotions and behavior while teaching children

This session will further assist parents in fulfilling their obligations under Family Code Section 151.001 and protecting their children under section 101.009.

2:45–3:00: BREAK

### 3:00–4:30: **SKILL #4: STRUCTURE AND SKILLS OF HIGH-CONFLICT MEDIATION**

- Why clients must be the decision makers to their maximum capacity
- Providing structure to assist the clients' decision-making process
- Quizzing clients on skills they have learned and having them show skills
- Helping professionals develop patience while assisting in slower, more effective decision making

This session will teach lawyers and other professionals how to implement the skills the parents have learned in order to make their own decisions in mediation. It will provide the structure designed to manage high-conflict parents known as New Ways for Mediation® and how this approach elicits more positive effort by parents in setting agendas, making proposals, respectfully responding to proposals and making final decisions. The principles and skills of this mediation method can also be applied in other negotiation and settlement settings, such as with two lawyers and clients, and with collaborative divorce teams. There will be discussion of how this method helps lawyers fulfill Family Code Sections 153.0071, 6.602 and 6.604.

# NEW WAYS FOR FAMILIES

## **BILL EDDY, LCSW, Esq.**

William A. ("Bill") Eddy is an attorney, therapist, mediator, and the Training Director of the High Conflict Institute based in San Diego, California. Mr. Eddy provides training to professionals worldwide on the subject of managing high-conflict personalities. He has provided seminars to lawyers, judges, mediators, mental health professionals, human resource professionals, employee assistance professionals, ombuds, hospital administrators, college administrators, government agencies, law enforcement, homeowners' association managers and others. He has presented in over 30 states and ten countries.

As an attorney, he was a Certified Family Law Specialist in California, where he represented clients in family court for 15 years. Prior to that, he provided psychotherapy for 12 years to children, adults, couples and families in psychiatric hospitals and outpatient clinics as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He has provided divorce mediation services for over 30 years.

He is the developer of the New Ways for Families® method for potentially high-conflict families, which is being implemented in several family court systems in the United States and Canada. He is also the co-developer of the HCI Pattern Viewer computer method of presenting high conflict behavior and numerous documents in a simple visual format to professionals and the court. He has also developed the New Ways for Mediation® method, which emphasizes a greater role for clients by using simple decision-making skills which are taught and reinforced by the mediator, including through Pre-Mediation Coaching.

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Robin Watts, L.P.C.

Christy Graham, L.P.C.-S

Gary Kollmeier, J.D.

David S. Bouschor II, J.D.

Sean Abeyta, J.D.

Camille Milner, J.D.