

Bernadette Devine MSW
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Curriculum Vitae (Brief)

I am a social worker with over 24 years experience in assisting children, individual adults, couples and families from diverse backgrounds with their mental health and wellbeing. From 1999 to 2009 I worked full time as a couple and family therapist working with complex couple and family issues including but not limited to communication difficulties, desire discrepancy, infidelity, family violence, step-parenting issues, the impact of mental health issues and substance abuse on relationships, and behavioural difficulties in children. I also provided clinical supervision to other family therapists. I have acted as a Child Consultant in Family Dispute Resolution. I was Lecturer-in-charge at ACU for the undergraduate unit *Working with Families and Groups* for several years. I was chair and co-writer for post separation parenting program *Keeping Kids in Mind*. From 2009 until early 2023 I worked full time at the Parramatta Registry of the now FCFCOA providing expert opinion to the Judiciary on issues such as family violence, resist/refuse dynamics, relocation, the impact of mental health and substance misuse on parenting, and the impact of parental conflict on children. In that time, I completed over 300 family reports, and over 900 Child Inclusive Conferences/Child and Parent Issues Assessments/Child Impact Reports. From time to time this role included re-introducing children to a parent, managing a change of residence via the registry, and explaining orders to children. I have provided court ordered family therapy to high conflict separated families (particularly when a child was refusing to see a parent). I have been in private practice since February 2023 providing long form and short form Single Expert Reports, Child Impact Assessments, and Limited Issues Reports.

Qualifications

- 2009 Master of Social Work (Major in Counselling) awarded by UNSW
- 1998 Bachelor of Social Work awarded by UWA
- 1996 Bachelor of Arts (Primary Education) awarded by Curtin University

Publications/Presentations

- Chair and Co-Writer for the development of the post separation parenting program *Keeping Kids in Mind*
- Trainer for Independent Children's Lawyer Training Program for Legal Aid NSW in 2019, 2020 & 2022

Relevant Recent Professional Development

- 2024 Child Inclusion in the New Age. Greater Sydney Family Law Pathways Network
- 2023 Mental Illness: Always an Unacceptable Risk? Greater Sydney Family Law Pathways Network
- 2023 *Interpersonal Psychotherapy, Level A*, presented by Dr Scott Stuart from the IPT Institute USA
- 2022 *Advanced Training in Suicide Prevention* presented by the Black Dog Institute
- 2022 *Alienation: What it is and what it isn't*, presented by Dr Phil Stahl
- 2021-2022 *Domestic Violence-Informed Practice*, Safe and Together Institute
- 2020 FCoA & FCC *Family Violence Training* package
- 2018 *Assessing Drug and Alcohol Misuse* presented by George Klein
- 2016 & 2017 Attendance at the *Annual Conference of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts*
- 2015 *Beyond Words: Parental Embodied Mentalizing: Theory, assessment and clinical benefits*, Anna Freud Centre, London UK
- 2014 *Parenting Competence and Parenting Risk Assessment* presented by Dr Christopher Lennings

Professional Memberships

- Member of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)
- Member of Pacifica Congress
- Member of the Association of Family & Conciliation Courts
- Member of the Australian Association for Infant Mental Health

Special Interests

- Assessing family violence
- Assessing problems in parent/child contact (resist/refuse dynamics) in high conflict separated families
- The particular needs of infants in separated families