

CONFERENCE REPORT

Committee: Social Work

Subject: The Challenge of Contact - An Examination
Of the problems facing families and professionals
in private law proceedings

Conference Organiser: The British Juvenile and Family Courts Society

Venue: London

Conference Fee: £95.00

Date (s): 8 - 9 May 1997

Recommendation: Not suitable for members to attend

BJFCS

ABOUT THE BRITISH JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURTS SOCIETY

Patrons: The Rt Hon Sir Stephen Brown
Sheriff Principal C Gordon Nicholson QC

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATION:

Formed in 1974, BJFCS is affiliated to the International Association of Juvenile and Family Court Magistrates which holds consultative status to the United Nations. Overseas court contacts are available to BJFCS members.

UNIQUE:

It is the only organisation of its kind representative of the United Kingdom, Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands.

OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

sponsoring research into the causes of criminal behaviour and social maladjustment among the young
educating all persons concerned in processes in relation to offending youth and young persons in need of care and control
encouraging liaison at national and international levels.

MEMBERSHIP: The three types of membership are:

ORDINARY: magistrates and others who hold or have held judicial, academic or professional appointments directly concerned with juveniles and their families in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Isle of Man or the Channel Islands.

ASSOCIATE: persons who by their qualifications, appointments or achievements can contribute to the work of the society.

CORPORATE: associations of professionals or other groups approved by the Executive Committee who by their aims and objectives can contribute to the work of the society.

Registered Charity No. 265966

BJFCS

THE BRITISH JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURTS SOCIETY

“The Challenge of Contact”

An examination of the problems facing families and professionals in private law proceedings

Thursday 8 & Friday 9 May 1997 at 9.30 am

Inner London Probation Service
71-73 Great Peter Street, London SW1

Contact issues are complex.
This two day conference will address:
legal matters and the courts
contact and domestic violence
supervised contact
the child's view of contact

The content of the two days is linked but each day has a separate focus.

This conference will be of interest to:

- * judges* magistrates *solicitors * barristers * guardians ad litem
- * health visitors * probation officers *courts welfare officers
- *social workers * police officers * child protection officers
- * children panel reporters and members * voluntary organisations
- * psychiatrists *psychologists * medical practitioners
- * youth workers * teachers * education welfare officers * housing officers

Approved by the Lord Chancellor's Department under and for the purposes of Section 63 of the Justices of the Peace Act 1979

Approved Law Society Training Provider
This is a Law Society approved CPD course. Attending solicitors will be eligible for 12 hours

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

8 May 1997 - Aspects of Contact

Chairman: **Simonetta Agnello Hornby**, Doctor of Jurisprudence (Palermo), Child Care Solicitor, Central London.

Speakers include:

His Honour Judge Callman, who sits in the Family Division. Judge Callman's speech will set out views from the High Court.

Hedi Argent, free lance writer, trainer, child care consultant, and a former guardian ad litem, who will address "the context of contact".

Margaret Briant, joint project leader at the Coram Foundation. Ms Briant will assess the position regarding supervised contact.

Thangam Debonnaire, National Children's Officer, Women's Aid Federation, who will speak on domestic violence.

Peter McCarthy, Relate Centre for Family Studies, Newcastle University, joint author of a paper entitled 'Being There: Fathers after Divorce'.

9 May 1997 - The Voice of the Child

Chairman: **Christine Field JP**, Chairman, Inner London Family Panel.

Speakers include:

Peter Jeffries, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Inner London, with responsibility for the Family Court Welfare Service. He will address practice issues and dilemmas facing Court Welfare Officers.

Caroline Sawyer, Lecturer in Law at Bristol University, who will address the voice of the child in private law proceedings.

Mary McLeod, Director of Policy Research and Information, ChildLine. She will express the views on contact given by children who telephone ChildLine.

Dr Guinevere Tufnell, Consultant in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, with experience of many Children Act cases.

The Way Forward

There will be workshops looking at the following issues:

- *Children's information needs in separation and divorce.*
- *Identifying and dealing with children's views and needs in mediation.*
- *The work of the Court Welfare Service: children's needs in the context of parental responsibility.*
- *Better ways of representing the child: should a guardian ad litem be appointed in private law?*
- *Post Court issues.*

The workshops will be led by some of the above speakers and **John Mellor**, Senior Court Welfare Officer, Royal Courts of Justice, and **Thelma Fisher OBE**, National Family Mediation.

Nick Crichton, Stipendiary Magistrate, Inner London Family Panel, will conclude the proceedings with a summary of the key issues.

The British Juvenile and Family Courts Society

APPLICATION FORM FOR CONFERENCE

on 8 May 1997 and 9 May 1997 LONDON

Bookings may be made for the two days or for individual days.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Telephone number :..... Fax :.....

Discipline/profession/qualifications.....

.....

Please tick as appropriate:

- ***I am a member of BJFCS and enclose a registration fee of £50/£95 for a place at the conference for one/two days***
- ***I am not a member of BJFCS and enclose a registration fee of £60/£110 for a place at the conference for one/two days.***
- ***I am not a member of BJFCS but would like to become a member. I enclose a cheque for £70/£115 (ie membership fee £20 and registration fee @ £50/£95 for a place at the conference for one/two days).***

• ***I require an invoice to be sent to:.....***

.....

Cheques should be made payable to BJFCS.

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for the tickets

Return to: The Secretary BJFCS

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