



Course Syllabus

Screening for Power Imbalances (including Family Violence) in Collaborative Practice

TRAINERS:

Cindy Chisvin, Hilary Linton, Nafisa Nazarali

OVERVIEW:

Knowing how to identify, assess and manage negotiation power is critical for effective collaborative practice. Being able to identify the factors that predict a risk of harm and to assess and safely manage family violence are fundamental competencies for collaborative professionals.

This interactive online course includes:

- Understanding sources of negotiation power and how they affect the process
- Research about family violence in family law cases
- A range of screening tools and guides for collaborative professionals
- Differentiated protocols for legal, family and financial professionals, and teams
- When and how to refer clients to more appropriate processes
- Safety planning tools, resources and procedures.
- Role plays, discussion, and next steps for professionals.

MATERIALS:

Handouts, presentations, case studies, screening tools and resources, and articles.

STRUCTURE OF COURSE:

*THERE WILL BE AN OPTIONAL INTRODUCTORY MEETING PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF THE COURSE, **DATE TBA***

The course is delivered via Zoom, on June **6, 13 and 20, 2024, from 9 am – 5 pm.**



JUNE 6 2024

Understanding and Identifying Power Imbalances and Family Violence.

9:00 - 9:15 am:

Welcome, introductions.

9:15 - 10:30 am:

- Purpose of screening: to determine whether the matter is appropriate for collaborative practice, and if so, to design the process appropriately
- Differentiation between acceptable and non-acceptable power imbalances.
- Factors that predict risk of harm, suicide and homicide.
- Three entry points for new clients: financial, family and legal professionals
- Why screening must be done before signing Collaborative Practice Agreement

10:30 - 10:45 am:

Health break

10:45 am - 12:00 pm:

- Who does the screening and when should it be done?
- Confidentiality agreement for intake and screening.
- Discussion in small groups and feedback.

12:00 - 1:00 pm:

Lunch break

1:00 - 2:00 pm:

Research and tools to help identify and assess risk.

2:00 - 2:45 pm:

Skills for effective client questioning and use of screening tools/resources.

2:45 - 3:00 pm: Health Break

3:00- 3:45 pm:

Intake meeting demonstration (family professional) and debrief

3:45- 4:45 pm:

Breakout into small groups of family, legal and financial professionals to discuss case study and applicable screening steps and tools

4:45 - 5:00 pm:

Learnings of the day summarized and next steps



JUNE 13, 2024

Assessing Power Imbalances Including Family Violence

9:00 - 9:30 am:

Discussion: scenarios for starting a collaborative file and signing the Collaborative Practice Agreement.

9:30 - 10:00 am:

Trauma-Informed Practice: the Window of Tolerance. (Raheena Lalani Dahya)

10:00 - 10:30 am:

Using screening tools for each professional group: examples, case studies, demonstrations.

10:30 - 10:45 am:

Health Break

10:45 - 11:15 am:

Skills for conducting screening interviews (cont'd)

11:15 am - 12:00 pm:

Discipline-specific small groups: demonstration, discussion, and practice using a screening tool.

12:30 - 1:00 pm:

Lunch Break

1:00 - 2:30 pm:

Role play: Practice Group coached breakouts to role play intake meetings/ screening meetings/use of screening tools.

2:30 - 2:45 pm:

Health Break

2:45 - 3:30 pm:

De-brief and discussion

3:30 - 4:30 pm:

Continued role play in small groups with coaches.

4:30 - 5:00 pm:

Large room debrief and questions.

JUNE 20, 2024:

Managing Power Imbalances including Family Violence

9:00 - 9:15 am:

Reflections, questions.

9:15 - 10:30 am: Review OACP April 2024 Protocols

Skills and strategies for managing power imbalances and risk in collaborative practice: from practice group perspectives.

10:30 - 10:45 am:

Health Break

10:45 am - 12:00 pm:

- Safety planning at various stages of the process: demonstrations and discussion
- Safe termination: principles and demonstration.
- Small groups: Best practices for screening, safety planning and safe termination in collaborative practice.

12:00 - 1:00 pm:

Lunch Break

1:00 - 2:00 pm:

Role play with coaches: the first Professional call

2:00 - 2:30 pm:

Small group role-play

2:30 - 2:45 pm:

Health Break

2:45 - 4:00 pm:

Role play continued

4:00 - 4:45 pm:

Debrief and discussion

4:45 - 5:00 pm:

Wrap up, next steps



Speaker and Coach Biographies



Cindy Chisvin

Cindy Chisvin is a collaborative professional, with a Master of Education degree with Specialization on Counselling Therapy. She has a passion for the therapeutic process, and works with individuals, couples and teens to help people deal with life's struggles by offering support and experience in the areas of communication issues, conflict resolution, anxiety, depression, grief, and relationship counselling. [Full bio here.](#)



Hilary Linton

Hilary Linton is a Toronto lawyer, an accredited family mediator, an experienced family arbitrator and an alternative dispute resolution trainer. She created Riverdale Mediation in 2000 and has built her private practice as a well-respected family mediator and arbitrator. She is recognized in Canada and recognized internationally for her skillful training, her extensive knowledge in alternative dispute resolution (ADR), her extensive experience and her energized and effective teaching style. [View full bio.](#)



Nafisa Nazarali

Nafisa Nazarali graduated with the highest distinction, Summa Cum Laude with an Honours Bachelor of Arts from York University and completed her Juris Doctor Program at Osgoode Hall Law School in 2009. She has been practicing exclusively in the area of family law since her call to the bar in 2010.

Nafisa began her career as a family law lawyer at a small firm in Brampton in 2010. After starting a family, she wanted to be closer to home and accepted a position as a junior associate with a prominent law firm in Brooklin in January 2014. Nafisa worked her way up to the role of senior managing associate lawyer at the firm. In her role, Nafisa had a full family law practice but also mentored other lawyers in the firm on various issues arising in out and of their practice. She motivated team members to look for ways to stretch and develop their skills in navigating the challenging issues arising in family law practice. [View full bio.](#)