



Through the
Eyes
of a
Child

***A Multi-Disciplinary
Approach to Child Advocacy***

November 10-11, 2011

Kalahari Resort and Convention Center
Wisconsin Dells, WI

**A Conference Targeting
Guardian ad Litem Practice Issues**

Encouraged to attend are:

- ▶ Guardians ad Litem
- ▶ Social Workers
- ▶ Judges/Court Commissioners
- ▶ Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- ▶ Prosecutors
- ▶ Public Defenders
- ▶ Juvenile and Family Court Lawyers
- ▶ Other Professionals Working with Children and Families

Sponsored by:

- ▶ UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension Family Living Programs
- ▶ Wisconsin Director of State Courts Office, Children's Court Improvement Program
- ▶ Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
- ▶ Wisconsin Department of Justice, Children's Justice Act Program
- ▶ State Bar of Wisconsin, Children and the Law Section

**Continuing
education
credits available.
See page 2.**



About This Conference

We invite professionals whose work impacts the well-being of children and families to come together to learn from each other, as well as experts in the fields of:

- ▶ law
- ▶ child welfare
- ▶ medicine
- ▶ child development and more

This conference will focus predominantly on guardian ad litem practice issues in the child welfare system, however, most topics cut across systems to engage all professionals working to serve children and families. This conference will provide you with information and skills to help you make the best recommendations and decisions in your practice.

Continuing Education Credits

The Wisconsin Judicial Education Committee has approved this conference for judicial education credit **and** sponsorship for judicial attendees. "Through the Eyes of a Child" has been approved for the use toward the Wisconsin mandatory continuing legal education requirement for 15.5 hours. This total includes 2.0 ethics and professional responsibility (EPR) hours, 15.5 Guardian ad Litem minor hours, 0 Guardian ad Litem adult hours, and 15.5 Guardian ad Litem family hours. Individual lawyers must report their hours of actual attendance on a timely filed CLE Form 1.

If you are a social worker, the subject matter of this program may be used to satisfy the continuing education requirement.

What You Will Learn

- ▶ The similarities and differences of Guardian ad Litem practice in family law and juvenile law matters.
- ▶ How childhood exposure to violence can impact early brain development and can lead to physical, mental, cognitive, and behavioral problems.
- ▶ What the research shows about juvenile sex offender recidivism risk and its implications for public policies.
- ▶ How and why youth intentionally injure themselves and strategies for effectively intervening and promoting more adaptive coping.
- ▶ How teen dating violence is connected to adolescent health concerns such as teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and self-harm.
- ▶ The Needs and risk factors underlining joining a gang, gang involvement, leaving a gang and the gang "mind set".
- ▶ How children initiate and develop attachment and the differences between secure attachment and insecure attachment.
- ▶ How and why all professionals, even those outside the school system, can and should advocate for childrens' educational needs.
- ▶ That family contact is a potent tool for effecting permanency and means to keep a child safe in a family that has experiences domestic violence, physical abuse, or sexual abuse.

General Information

Date/Times:

Thursday, November 10 and Friday, November 11, 2011.
Check-In: 7:30-9:00 am, Thursday, November 10.

The conference begins at 9:00 am each day and will end at 4:15 pm on Thursday and 4:00 pm on Friday.

Pre-plenary sessions are offered each morning from 8:00 am to 8:50 am.

Food:

In adherence with hotel and state fiscal policies, the timing and quantity of breaks and meals is limited. There will be NO coffee or food available until the first morning break after 10 am. Please plan accordingly. We appreciate your understanding.

Location:

Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells
Exit 92 off I-90/94.

Registration Fees include materials in CD ROM or book:

Postmarked on or by October 21, 2011	\$125
Postmarked after October 21, 2011	\$150
To choose both CD ROM <i>and</i> book, pay an additional \$ 20	

To Register:

Advance registration is required. There will be NO on-site registration. You may register by:

1. Completing the [online registration](#) linked here. You may also link to the online registration by visiting our website: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/conference>
2. Completing the [registration form](#) available on our website and mailing or faxing it to the address indicated on the form.

Cancellation Policy:

If you cancel your registration ten or more working days prior to the program, you will receive a refund, less a \$25 administrative fee. Confirmed registrants who cancel less than ten working days (October 27, 2011) prior to the program date are responsible for the entire fee. If you cancel your registration, please make a note of the cancellation number. Substitutions from the same agency/firm are permitted.

Conference Information and hyperlinks:

To find out more, link to the conference's [presenter biographies](#) or visit UW-Extension Family Living Programs website <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/conference>.

For registration questions, contact Gloria at The Pyle Center 608-265-2955.

For Conference related questions, contact Kären Miskimen at karen.miskimen@ces.uwex.edu; 888-391-4255 or 608-262-1411.

Overnight Accommodations:

A block of rooms at the Kalahari Resort * (1-877-253-5466) has been set aside until October 10, 2011, for this conference. The \$70 State Rate will be honored at the time of check in for single occupancy guests. A double, triple or quad room is \$119 with conference attendance. Ask for the "Through the Eyes of a Child" conference rate. A one-night deposit is required at the time of reservation.

*Please note: you will be charged \$119 at the time of the reservation. The difference between the \$119 and the single rate of \$70 will be refunded to you when you check in to the Kalahari.

Morning of Thursday, November 10, 2011

There will be NO coffee or food available until the first morning break at 10:30 am

8:00 a.m. Thursday Pre-Plenary Session – Ethics

A. Ethics, Due Diligence, and Competent GAL Practice

Mary J. Mountin, JD, Attorney at Law

This session will provide a review of the standards, ethical considerations, and practical solutions in guardian ad litem practice in children's court proceedings.

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Conference Announcements

9:15 a.m. General Session Address An Integrated Approach to Childhood Exposure to Violence

*Linda Chamberlain, PhD, MPH, Founding Director,
Alaska Family Violence Prevention Project*

In this keynote, Dr. Chamberlain begins with a brief overview of how childhood exposure to violence can impact early brain development and lead to physical, mental, cognitive, and behavioral problems. She shares her findings from a recent national review of best practices and evidence-based interventions that are making a difference for children and families.

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Seminars

B. WICWA in the Real World: Putting the Law into Practice

Bridget Bauman, JD, Children's Court Improvement Program Coordinator,

Wisconsin Director of State Courts Office

Kris Goodwill, JD, Tribal Attorney,

Ho-Chunk Nation, Department of Justice

Wendy Klicko, JD, Assistant Corporation Counsel,

Sauk County Corporation Counsel's Office

Theresa Schmieder, JD, Attorney, Schmieder Law Office, LLC

This workshop will focus on the practical implications of carrying out the Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act (WICWA). A number of the requirements of WICWA will be covered, including active efforts, placement preferences, notice, party representation, and qualified expert witness testimony. The panel will share their experiences with actual cases and provide real-life examples.

C. Juvenile Sex Offender Recidivism Risk and Public Policy

Michael Caldwell, PsyD, Lecturer, UW-Madison

Public policies regarding juvenile sexual offenders are intended to reduce the risk to the community. The federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (Title I of the Adam Walsh Act), would require states to place some juveniles as young as 14 on a sex offender registry for 25 years to life. Research into the effectiveness of sex offender registration laws have been unable to demonstrate their effectiveness. Further, research into risk assessment methods for juvenile sex offenders have produced mixed results. This workshop will review the research on juvenile sex offender recidivism risk and the implications for public policies. Commonly used risk assessment tools will be reviewed, as well as research that has specifically examined the effectiveness of sex offender registration and notification laws as applied to juveniles.

D. Breakdown in the Language Zone

*Michele LaVigne, JD, Clinical Professor, UW-Madison,
Law School*

*Gregory Van Rybroek, JD, PhD, Director, Mendota Mental Health Institute; Adjunct Professor, UW-Madison,
Law School and Department of Psychology*

Impaired language ability occurs at a substantially higher rate within populations commonly found in the juvenile justice system. This includes juveniles diagnosed with ADHD, learning disabilities, and conduct disorders, as well as those raised in substantial poverty. This presentation will describe some of the research and will discuss the implications for practitioners. Participants will learn about the treatment methods used by staff at Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center with juveniles who suffer from extreme deficits in language and language usage.

E. See My Pain! A Contextual Understanding of Self-Injury Among Adolescents

*Jennifer Muehlenkamp, PhD, Assistant Professor,
UW-Eau Claire*

Self-injury is a growing problem among youth and understanding this phenomenon better prepares professionals for working with these adolescents. This presentation will include an interactive examination of current research detailing how and why youth intentionally injure themselves and offer strategies for effectively intervening and promoting more adaptive coping.

**Professionals
may obtain
continuing education
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for more information.**

12:15 p.m. Lunch

Afternoon of Thursday, November 10, 2011

1:15 p.m. General Session Address

The Amazing Adolescent Brain: Opportunities and Vulnerabilities

*Linda Chamberlain, PhD, MPH, Founding Director,
Alaska Family Violence Prevention Project*

The adolescent brain is a work-in-progress. Dr. Chamberlain will highlight key changes occurring in the adolescent brain. Policy implications, practical strategies, and evidence-based practices to optimize healthy brain development, minimize exposure to neurotoxins such as alcohol, improve communication, and reduce conflict will be featured in this keynote.

2:30 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. Seminars

F. Domestic Violence and the Guardian ad Litem

*Morgan Young, JD, Immigration/Poverty Attorney,
Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence*
*Korey Lundin, JD, Staff Attorney & Family Law Priority
Coordinator, Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.*
Ruth Westmont, JD, MSW, LSW, Westmont Law Offices, S.C.
Eve Dennison-Pollock, JD, W. R. Stewart & Associates, S.C.

Domestic violence and the family court system: what is the role of the guardian ad litem? Discuss the challenges to implementing 2003 Act 130 with a panel of peers. The conversation will be lead by attorneys from the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Legal Action and will include a GAL's duty to investigate, custody presumptions, parental manipulation, and more.

G. Addressing the Hidden Epidemic of Dating Violence

*Linda Chamberlain, PhD, MPH, Founding Director,
Alaska Family Violence Prevention Project*

Participants will learn to recognize the dynamics, patterns, and warning signs of dating violence for adolescent boys and girls including risk factors that increase the likelihood of experiencing and/or perpetrating dating violence. Describing the predictable consequences, Dr. Chamberlain makes the connection between dating violence and leading adolescent health concerns such as teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and self-harm. Focusing on what we can do to make a difference, she offers practical strategies and the latest scientific evidence on best and promising practices for intervention and prevention.

H. 2011 Children's Case Law and Legislative Update

John Hoffmann, JD, Waupaca County Circuit Court Judge
Rändi Othrow, JD, Othrow Law Office

This presentation will focus on pertinent published and unpublished family and juvenile cases and recent legislative changes. Practice tips relevant to guardians ad litem will be discussed.



I. Journeyman - The Documentary

Kevin Obsatz, Co-Director, Mirrorman Films

The filmmakers follow two teenagers involved in a mentoring program for over three years, from age 15-18. Both boys have sought healthy male role models to teach them alternative means of coping with the struggles they face in their daily lives, from suicidal depression to gang violence and drug abuse.

4:15 p.m. Conclusion of the First Day Conference

SAVE THE DATE!



November 1-2, 2012

Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI

Morning of Friday, November 11, 2011

There will be NO coffee or food available until the first morning break at 10:15 am

8:00 a.m. Pre-Plenary Session

J. Confidentiality

Gloria Marquardt, MSW, JD, Health Information Supervisor and HIPAA Compliance Officer, Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Federal and state laws governing confidential records will be discussed with a focus on access to records by entities involved in child abuse and neglect investigations. Information will be presented about authorizations signed by the subject of the information, statutory exceptions, and court orders.

10:15 a.m. Break

9:00 a.m. General Session Address

Family Contact: Maintaining Safety While Enhancing Attachment

Norma Ginther, MSW, LISW, Executive Director, Norma M. Ginther Consulting and Training, LLC

We need to change the way we have thought of family visitation for years. We should think of family contact as a means of quickly enhancing safe permanency for children. Frequent, well-planned family contact, in which a birth parent is expected to perform parenting activities with the child, quickly provides clear evidence of the level and health of the parents' attachment to their children. The family contact specialist and worker can support the parents to enhance their skill and support appropriate attachment. The planning and changes that can shorten the length of our involvement in a case will be discussed.

10:30 a.m. Seminars

K. Understanding and Working with "Youth Gang Members"

Jose R. Flores, Pastor, CPP, Violence Prevention Initiative Director, United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee; Pastor, Parkway Church

Pastor Flores will review history and philosophy of gangs in America. We will take a look at gang structures, gang identifiers, and trends. We will explore the Midwest gang phenomena. We will also explore what works in working with these "at potential" populations. This session will touch on exploring successful diversion and probation programs that are using these resources for gang intervention. Participants will gain understanding of programs that look at needs and risk factors underlining joining a gang, gang involvement, leaving a gang, and the gang "mind set".

L. Boot Camp for Guardians ad Litem Practicing in Juvenile Court

Eve Dennison-Pollock, JD, W. R. Stewart & Associates, S.C.

The role of the GAL in CHIPS cases is challenging and differs greatly from the role in family court. This presentation introduces the practitioner appointed as a GAL in juvenile court to the fundamentals of Chapter 48, the Children's Code, and its unique practices and procedures.

M. Attachment and How It Grows

Norma Ginther, MSW, LISW, Executive Director, Norma M. Ginther Consulting and Training, LLC

This workshop focuses on the initiation and development of attachment in children. The workshop demonstrates the differences between secure attachment and insecure attachment. It addresses the crisis created for the child by separation and placement, and its impact on attachment. The children coming into care have maladaptive attachment, not a complete lack of attachment. The workshop will also cover the critical need to enhance and alter the maladaptive attachment for the child to return home safely.

N. The Unwashed Elephant in the Room

Steven Dykstra, PhD, Psychologist, Wisconsin Reading Coalition

We ask our kids to invest 7+ hours per day, 180 days each year in school. When it works, it's time and money well spent. When it doesn't, things usually get worse. This workshop will focus on how we teach, or don't teach, children while they are in school, including issues related to reading and behavior. Learn how all professionals, even those outside the school system, can and should advocate successfully for childrens' educational needs, and make school a meaningful part of the child's team.

12:00 p.m. Lunch



Afternoon of Friday, November 11, 2011

1:00 p.m. General Session Address My Favorite Teachers and What They Taught Me

Steven Dykstra, PhD, Psychologist,
Wisconsin Reading Coalition

I have a very clear memory from the start of my career when, PhD firmly in hand, I came face to face with how little I really knew, and how little of what I knew actually mattered. It turned out to be less of a problem than I expected, since I was surrounded by teachers ready to help me learn. I just had to get past the fact that some of them were only 6 years old. Remarkably, I think I'm more help to children when I'm learning than when I'm teaching.

2:15 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. Seminars

O. ABC's of GAL Appointments - Family Law

Gayle Branaugh Jebbia, JD, Attorney at Law

This workshop will take you through the process of acting as a guardian ad litem for minor children in a Chapter 767 context. We will learn how to evaluate, prepare, and ultimately present your case at trial in family law matters. We will also discuss some of the differences between acting as a GAL in family law matters versus juvenile law matters.



P. How to Implement Best Planning for Families Separated by Child Protection

Norma Ginther, MSW, LISW, Executive Director,
Norma M. Ginther Consulting and Training, LLC
Sandy Stetzer, Visitation Program Supervisor,
Children's Service Society of Wisconsin

Frequent family contact is the best way to reframe attachment and reunify families. It is a good source of clear and convincing evidence that a family should be reunified or that other permanency solutions are required. But, how to keep a child safe in a family situation that has been violent or abusive? This workshop will explore means to keep a child safe in a family that has experienced domestic violence, physical abuse, or sexual abuse. Even in these extreme situations, family contact is a potent tool for effecting permanency.

Q. A Framework for Understanding Mental Illness in Children

Steven Dykstra, PhD, Psychologist,
Wisconsin Reading Coalition

Many of our children have mental health diagnoses. Too often those labels don't do much more than fill in a blank on a form. If we understand children's mental illness better we can get real information from those diagnoses that we can use to help children.

4:00 p.m. Conclusion of Conference

We thank our generous sponsors*

UW-Extension,
Cooperative Extension
Family Living Programs

**Wisconsin Director
of State Courts
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* Points of view expressed do not necessarily represent the official positions of the financial sponsors.



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