

Focus Group End of Year Report for 2023

Name of Focus Group: Divorce & Co-Parenting Education

Chair/Co-chairs: Lawrence G. Shelton

Chair/Co-chairs email: lshelton@uvm.edu

1. What were your focus groups major activities or accomplishments this year?

Our major activities and accomplishments this year included: a.] engaging in increased communication among members, b.] soliciting questions for conversation and sharing among the members, c.] sharing resources for educational programs, d.] planning an exciting discussion agenda for the 2023 NCFR Conference. Two members are editing a special issue of *The Family Court Review* on parent education.

2. What has your focus group done during the past year to further NCFR's inclusion and diversity initiatives?

Nothing new to report.

3. Please list any concerns, questions, or suggestions.

Our major concern continues to be keeping efforts to build collaboration and communication sharing among members moving forward.

We also hope to recruit new leaders to advance the work of the Focus Group.

Return by **Monday, October 16, 2023** to membership@ncfr.org

Focus Group Work Plan for 2024

Name of Focus Group Divorce & Co-Parenting Education

Chair/Co-chairs Lawrence G. Shelton

Chair/Co-chairs email lshelton@uvm.edu

1. Do you wish to have a time allocated for your focus group during at the next NCFR Annual Conference?
X Yes No

2. If Yes, please list or attach tentative agenda.

Review of 2024 Activities

Reports of Working Groups

Discussion of New Programs, Activities and Trends

Planning for 2025

3. Please list 2024 focus group goals/projects/aspirations.

Increase use of NCFR group communication potential.

Establish new working groups.

Plan for 2024 meeting.

Plan for 2025 work.

4. Please identify any opportunities, suggestions, or concerns regarding the role of this focus group in furthering NCFR's inclusion and diversity initiatives.

Members could consider increasing inclusion of more diverse participants in program designs.

5. Please list any areas where you would like assistance from NCFR staff.

The Focus Group would like NCFR staff assistance in reducing the complications of posting on the Group Discussion platform.

6. Are there any other concerns or questions that have come from the 2023 focus group annual meeting?

None noted.

Attach your **2023 annual meeting minutes** to this form and return by **Friday December 1, 2023** to membership@ncfr.org

**Divorce and Co-Parenting Education Focus Group
Annual Meeting 2023, November 8
Orlando, Florida**

Minutes

The meeting opened with a greeting from the Chair, Larry Shelton. Attendees then introduced themselves and described their work and interests. Four were new to the group and all had interests that are relatively new additions to the wide interests of the group. So Young is studying the processes used in Family court, especially in adjudicating contested child responsibilities. Christina is researching the experiences of African American parents with resources, in contrast to much of the literature which focuses on low-income parents. She seeks ways to support their co-parenting. Stephanie's interest escaped the note-taker's pen. Claudette's central focus is reflected in her web site address, as she coaches and provides resources to step-moms. Other members reported working on developing programs for LGBTQ parents and high conflict parents and modules that allow program participants to choose materials tailored to their particular situations.

Other trends and new concerns noted included step-parents in same-sex couple step-families and co-parenting in poly-amorous and throuple families. These situations present particular difficulties in conducting family evaluations and adjudicating parental responsibilities.

The Divorce Education Assessment Consortium effort at Kansas State continues, with three or more presentations at this year's conference.

In general discussion about the Focus Group it was noted that the Discussion Platform on NCFR is not as user-friendly as it could be. The Chair promised to discuss the situation with NCFR staff and to include developing an easier communication strategy for the group in the 2024 plan of work.

The chair renewed his request for someone to step up to be Chair or Co-Chair, and will pursue that in the new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence G. Shelton, Chair

Attendees:

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