

# Jan Keny

## Multicultural Play Therapy Center Conference

June 28, 2017

**Day 3:** June 28

**Title:** Surviving and Thriving with High Conflict Divorce Cases: Managing your Clients, Cases, and Court

**Description:** Given the incidence of divorce today, the impact of divorce on children, and the rise in custody conflicts, play therapists often find themselves counseling children of separated and divorced parents. It is likely that many play therapists will become involved with a high conflict divorce case at some point in their careers. Serving these clients appropriately and avoiding unintentionally escalating the conflict requires the counselor not only be skilled at wise therapy but also have knowledge of legal systems and ethical issues that can arise. This training will help play therapists understand the dynamics of high conflict divorce, the impact of such conflict on children, appropriate participation in the legal process, and best practice (including techniques!) for treating children and families of high conflict divorce.

**Participants will be able to:**

1. Identify dynamics of high conflict divorce and increase awareness of involved client (and professional) high conflict personality characteristics;
2. Increase play therapy skills in working with children caught in high conflict families, exploring ways to incorporate play and expressive media plus elements of filial therapy into the required work: individual, family, and reunification/reconnection therapy;
3. Increase understanding of best practice for play therapists in high conflict divorce cases while avoiding legal and ethical pitfalls: roles, responsibilities and boundaries;
4. Discuss need for multi-disciplinary collaboration in high conflict divorce cases among play therapists and other professionals; and
5. Identify play therapist best practice in high conflict divorce cases in responding to legal requests: Communicating w/ attorneys, subpoenas, court testimony.

**Jan Keny, LPC** is a counselor in private practice, with over 30 years of experience. She was the first director of Victim Assistance/Rape Crisis (now part of Safe Alliance) and worked as a counselor and trainer for Family Center. Along with Laurie Reed and Maria Curran, she provides training for the volunteer advocates for the Council for Children's Rights, on the impact of divorce and alienation on children. She holds a Masters in Counseling from Minnesota State

University and works with children, adolescents and adults. Children and parents caught in high conflict divorce are a current treatment focus.

**Laurie Reed, LCSW** holds Master's degrees from Washington University in Education and Clinical Social Work. She has been a practicing psychotherapist for three decades, specializing in play therapy with young children, teens and parents. In addition, Ms. Reed is especially interested in helping parents and young people successfully navigate the challenges of parental separation and divorce.

**Maria Curran, PhD, LPC-S** is the owner/director of the Center for Creativity & Healing in Charlotte. She holds a doctorate in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences with a concentration in creativity, learning, and human development and a master's degree in counseling. She is a licensed professional counselor supervisor and is a certified facilitator in Open Studio Process. Her areas of practice and consultation include individual, family and group therapy; play and expressive arts therapy; parenting/co-parenting; reunification therapy, divorce/blended family adjustment; LPCA supervision; and Open Studio Process training.

**Irene King, J.D.**, is the founder and owner of King Collaborative Family Law. She is a Board Certified Specialist in Family Law and Certified Family Financial Mediator. Prior to forming King Collaborative, she practiced family law for over 10 years. Irene guides her clients through the process of thoughtfully resolving their conflicts with integrity and dignity. A collaborative divorce motivates and elevates all involved to focus on rebuilding for the future rather than hashing out differences in the courtroom and dismantling the past.