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Changing the Culture of Conflict

High Conflict Institute, LLC
7701 E. Indian School Rd., Ste. F
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

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UNDERSTANDING & MANAGING
**HIGH CONFLICT
PERSONALITIES**
In Family Law Disputes

Co-Sponsored by

Collaborative Law Institute of Georgia



And

High Conflict Institute



April 12, 2010
Atlanta, Georgia

Bill Eddy, LCSW, Esq.

Attorney, Therapist, Mediator

Author of

*Don't Alienate the Kids! Raising Resilient Children
While Avoiding High-Conflict Divorce*

High Conflict People in Legal Disputes

*It's All Your Fault! 12 Tip for Managing People Who
Blame Others for Everything*

*Splitting: Protecting Yourself While Divorcing
a Borderline or Narcissist*

FACULTY: **Bill Eddy, LCSW, Esq.**, is President and co-founder of **High Conflict Institute**. As an attorney, mediator and therapist, he has become an international author & speaker to professionals managing high conflict disputes, especially involving people with personality disorders. As an attorney, Bill is a Certified Family Law Specialist in California and the Senior Family Mediator at the National Conflict Resolution Center in San Diego. Prior to becoming an attorney in 1992, he was a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with twelve years' experience providing therapy to children, adults, and families in psychiatric hospitals and outpatient clinics. He has taught Negotiation & Mediation at the University of San Diego School of Law for six years and his articles have appeared in law and counseling journals. He is adjunct faculty at the National Judicial College and Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University.

Place: AMA Executive Conference Center
1170 Peachtree Street, Ne
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Date: April 12, 2010 **Time:** 9:00 – 4:30

Rate: \$130 through April 4/5 or \$150 after 4/5
*Includes copy of Bill Eddy's book,
High Conflict People in Legal Disputes*

Limited number of scholarships available. Contact us for info.

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Understanding & Managing High Conflict Personalities in Family Law Disputes

High Conflict Personalities: Traits and Disorders

An overview is provided of the DSM-IV-TR diagnostic criteria of several personality disorders, traits of which most often drive high conflict cases, including: Borderline, Narcissistic, Histrionic, Antisocial, and Paranoid. An analysis will be presented of the general litigation and negotiating behavior of these personality types, with case examples. Common cognitive distortions of these personalities will be explained.

Handling High Conflict Personalities in Litigation, Negotiation & Mediation

Family law professionals dealing with high conflict people need to pay more attention to Bonding, Structure, Reality Testing and Consequences. In Collaborative Law, everyone is more effective if they share a common understanding of high-conflict personalities and methods to manage them. In litigation, there are predictable problems and sources of useful evidence. In mediation, there are several skills to manage and move these clients to agreements.

Ethical problems are common in high-conflict cases, as people with high conflict personalities push normal boundaries, seek many favors, have a sense of entitlement, don't pay all their fees and are the clients most likely to sue professionals.

Family Dynamics, Alienation and Professional "Splitting"

Those with personality disorders "split" people into all good and all-bad. This unconscious defense mechanism drives much of their abusive behavior, false allegations and disputes with professionals trying to assist them. Family members often become "split" with pressure to take sides, including the children, which appears as alienation between some parents and children. Professionals may also become "split" with personal conflict arising between them. Ways to manage these families and prevent professional splitting will be presented.

Assessing True & False Reports of Abuse

Reports of sexual abuse and domestic violence are the focus of many high-conflict cases. True and false reports appear the same on the surface, often with no physical evidence, extreme emotions, questionable factual statements and strongly-felt professional opinions. Professionals tend to minimize the occurrence of true abuse on one hand and tend to disregard the existence of false reports honestly felt or for personal gain on the other hand. An open-minded, evidence-based approach will be presented that recognizes the wide range of factual information in these cases. A brief overview of a method for preventing high-conflict divorce, *New Ways for Families™*, will be included.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Attorneys: The State Bar of Georgia Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency has **approved** this seminar for 6.0 Regular CLE hours and 1.0 Ethics hour. Course No. 137695.

Psychologists: HCI is **approved** by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. HCI maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

Social Workers: Application submitted to National Association of Social Workers.

Contact us with questions @ 602-606-7628 or info@highconflictinstitute.com

Who Should Attend.....

Lawyers ▪ Judicial Officers ▪ Collaborative Professionals ▪ Mediators ▪ Therapists ▪ Psychologists ▪ Social Workers ▪ Court Administrators ▪ Judicial Assistants ▪ Family Court Counselors ▪ Custody Evaluators ▪ Parenting Coordinators ▪ Advocates ▪ Guardians ad Litem ▪ Academicians ▪ Paralegals