

**For The Sake of the Children:
When the Play Therapist is Working with Children of a Contentious Divorce**
MPTI Virtual Boot Camp
Friday, August 6, 2021 1:00 p.m. -4:15 p.m.
Brian L. Bethel, PhD., LPCC-S, LCDC III, RPT-S
Hilda R. Glazer, ED. D., LPCC-S, RPT-S

Training Description:

Children are often brought to play therapy as part of the negotiations during a divorce. The goal of play therapy for the child is processing the divorce and learning skills to move forward with the new family constellation. However in a contentious divorce the goals of the parents may be more related to winning points in the proceeding rather than the best interests of the child. How the play therapist negotiates the manipulation and contention and remains the child's advocate is often difficult at best. This training will explore the contentious divorce situation and the role and pitfalls facing the play therapist. Case examples will be provided.

Training Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. List the goals of play therapy for children of divorce.
2. List at least three interventions for children of divorce
3. Describe the red flags that may arise when working with divorcing parents
4. Describe strategies for working with parents in a contentious divorce
5. Describe considerations for court appearances

Training Agenda:

1pm-1:30 p.m. Introduction: Review of training objectives and competencies. Individual experiences and goals

1:30 – 2:00p.m. Review of Play therapy Practice with Children of Divorce and Reunification Therapy

2:00- 2:30 p.m. The Contentious Divorce: Introduction

2:30-2:45 p.m. BREAK

2:45 – 3:00 p.m. Case Presentation

3:00-4:00 p.m. Surviving the Contentious Divorce

4:00-4:15 p.m. Maintaining your role as the advocate for the child.

3 CEs will be awarded to those individuals who are present for the entire presentation, complete, and return an evaluation form. APT Approved Provider #15-422



Dr. Hilda R. Glazer has her Ed.D. from Rutgers University in Educational Psychology and has a Master of Science Degree in Counseling from the University of North Texas. Past academic positions include associate professor in the School of Allied Health Sciences at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, dean of psychology at Walden University, chair of Educational Psychology at Capella University and most recently director of the Capella Center for the Study of Play Therapy. Hilda developed a clinical specialty in counseling grieving children working with Mount Carmel Hospice in Columbus and in private practice. Hilda was editor of the *Journal for Healthcare Education and Training* and the *International Journal of Play Therapy* and continues to serve on a number of editorial boards. She has received a number of awards including the Service Award of the Ohio Association for Play Therapy in 2016, The Extraordinary Faculty Award from Walden University in 2003 and the Distinguished Service Award from the American

Society for Healthcare Education and Training in 1991. Her most recent publication is and edited volume with Myra Clark-Foster entitled *Understanding the Journey: A Lifespan Approach in Working with Grieving Children* published by Charles C Thomas. She is widely published and has presented at state, national and international conferences in Ireland, Germany, Indonesia and China. She and her husband David Stein live in Bexley Ohio and are enjoying 4 young grandchildren.

Dr. Brian L. Bethel is a Professional Clinical Counselor-Supervisor (LPCC-S), a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC III), and a Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor (RPT-S) with specialized training in counseling children, adolescents, and families. Dr. Bethel earned his PhD. In Counselor Education and Supervision from Ohio University where he also earned dual Master's degrees in Clinical Counseling and Rehabilitation Counseling. With over twenty years of clinical practice, Dr. Bethel brings a diversity of strengths to his clinical practice. As the founder and director of Interplay Counseling and



Consultation Services, LLC. , Dr. Bethel operates a private counseling practice and provides educational services to community organizations. He has dedicated much of his professional career to working with individuals impacted by trauma and continues as a mental health clinician for a Child Advocacy Center that serves children and families across southern and southeastern, Ohio.

In addition to his counseling practices, Dr. Bethel serves as an independent trainer and consultant. He has provided consultation services to various schools, social service agencies, court systems, and foster care agencies. Dr. Bethel serves as an independent trainer and consultant with the Ohio Human Services Training System and the Ohio Child Welfare Program where he was recognized for his training excellence as a recipient of both the "Rising Star" award in 2007 and the "Linda Pope" award in 2014. In 2018, Dr. Bethel was awarded an Award of Excellence in Research from the Association for Play Therapy for his research on the use of play therapy for children with disabilities. Dr. Bethel is a frequent presenter at professional conferences and is recognized as an innovative, an exciting presenter on a local, state, national, and international level.