



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

Subject: CLE seminars for judges and family lawyers

Research on shared parenting (joint physical custody)

From: Dr. Linda Nielsen

Professor of Adolescent & Educational Psychology

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As you can see from the attached resume, I am considered an international expert on the research on shared parenting/ joint physical custody arrangements where the children live with each parent at least 35% of the time. I have presented CLE seminars in several states at conferences for judges, lawyers, family law specialists and mental health workers involved in the family court system. My articles have been published in the American Psychological Association's *Psychology Public Policy and Law*, *American Journal of Family Law* and the *Journal of the Association of Matrimonial Lawyers*. I have also served as an expert witness presenting this research to the judge in a number of custody cases. The three hour seminar addresses such questions as:

- (1) Best interests of the child: Do children benefit any more from living in shared parenting families than from living in sole physical custody with alternate weekend time with their other parent? If so, why?
- (2) How do infants and preschoolers fare in shared parenting families? Don't infants and toddlers need the security of living with the parent to whom they have a primary attachment – their mother? Should babies and toddlers spend overnight time in their father's care? Why or why not?
- (3) When does shared parenting not benefit the children? When is it not in the best interests of the child?
- (4) What distinguishes parents who have shared parenting plans from other separated parents? Does shared parenting only work well and only benefit kids when parents have a cooperative relationship?
- (5) Is shared parenting beneficial when the parents are in high conflict, when there have been isolated incidents of physical anger, or when the plan was court ordered? Shouldn't the level of conflict be the most decisive factor in deciding which parenting plan is in the children's best interests?
- (6) How can parenting plans be designed to reduce conflict so that children can benefit from shared parenting?
- (7) What is gatekeeping and how can we tell when this is happening?
- (8) How are social science studies on child custody issues misused to woozle and bamboozle lawyers, judges and custody evaluators? How can these professionals reduce the chances of being woozled?
- (9) Doesn't shared parenting put the parents' needs ahead of the best interests of the child?
- (10) How do children who live in shared parenting families feel about this arrangement?

In the second half of the seminar, I answer questions from the audience. Participants will be given a packet of handouts, including copies of my five most recent articles. I will email materials to be forwarded to participants ahead of time. This gives people time to formulate their seminar questions.

I arrive the day before the presentation, give my seminar the next morning (8:30 – noon) and leave in time to catch a flight home during the afternoon. Depending on the arrival flight time, I am generally free to have dinner with a few people the night I arrive. My fee is \$3,500, which includes all of my travel expenses. The fee is less if no overnight stay is involved. I look forward to hearing from you and would welcome the opportunity to present a seminar to your group.

Resume – Dr. Linda Nielsen
Professor of Adolescent & Educational Psychology
Wake Forest University

Education

1967-69 B.A. English University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 1970-72 M.A. Educational Psychology & Counseling U.T. Knoxville
 1972-74 Ed.D. Educational Psychology & Counseling U.T. Knoxville
 Area of concentration: Adolescent Psychology

Teaching Experience

1970-1973 High school English teacher, Knoxville, TN.
 1973-1974 College Instructor. University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 1974-present Professor of Adolescent & Educational Psychology Wake Forest University

Areas of expertise

Child Custody: Shared parenting (joint physical custody)
 Father-daughter relationships
 Adolescent psychology

Books

Child custody & parenting plans: Research & Issues (under review)
Father-Daughter Relationships: Contemporary Research and Issues (2012) Taylor & Francis, Routledge.
Between Fathers & Daughters: Enriching or Rebuilding Your Adult Relationship (2008) Turner Publishing
Embracing Your Father: Building the Relationship You Always Wanted with Your Dad (2004) McGraw Hill
Adolescence: A contemporary view (1987-1996, 3 editions) Harcourt Brace
How to motivate adolescents: A guide for parents, counselors and teachers (1983) Prentice Hall

Chapters in Edited Books

Father daughter relationships *Social Work Perspectives on Fatherhood* (Routledge, in press, 2017)
 Joint physical custody: Impact on children *Encyclopedia of Child Development* (Wiley, 2017)
 Joint physical custody: Outcomes for children Academic Press, Portugal

Distinctions and awards

1969 Phi Beta Kappa
 1969 Outstanding graduate award. College of Education. University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 1975 Fourteen grants. WFU Research & Publications Fund
 1980 National award for outstanding article: Women's Scholars. U.S. Office of Education
 1980 Post-doctoral Fellowship: American Association of University Women (9 awarded)
 1983 Reynolds Leave to write book: How to Motivate Adolescents
 1989 Reynolds Leave to write book: Adolescence: A contemporary View
 1998 American Bar Association: Service Award for Domestic Violence Advocacy Program
 1999 Archie Grant: Research on fathers and daughters
 2000 Technology training grant for course enhancement
 2001 Reynolds Sabbatical Leave

- 2001 Award for Fathers & Daughters syllabus: State University of New York, Buffalo
- 2002 Community Service Award: Today's Woman Health Center
- 2004 National Public Radio: one hour program on my Fathers & Daughters book
- 2005 PBS documentary featuring my work on Fathers & Daughters
- 2009 Course development grant for Children of Divorce
- 2010 Reynolds leave to finish book: Fathers and Daughters
- 2012 Course development grant for pre-law students' course: Child Custody: Research & Issues
- 2015 Reynolds Sabbatical Leave
- 2013- present Community engagement grants for CLE seminars to family court judges & lawyers

Child Custody: Shared parenting (joint physical custody): Publications & Professional Activities

National service 2005- present

Consultation on joint physical custody research provided for custody law reform committees: Bermuda, Scotland, United Kingdom, Israel, Canada, Romania, Sicily, Australia, Arizona, Oregon, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Carolina, North Carolina, and West Virginia.

Expert witness work

Vetted as a national recognized expert on shared parenting research for child custody cases in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, and North Carolina.

CLE Seminars on shared parenting research

International Conference on Shared Parenting – featured speaker	June 2017	Boston
Louisiana Bar Association: Family Law	November 2014	New Orleans
North Carolina Bar Association: Family Law Specialists Conference	July 2014	Raleigh, NC
South Carolina Bar Association: Family Law conference	January 2014	Charleston, SC
North Carolina Bar Association: District Court Judges Conference	October 2013	Charlotte, NC
Midwestern Family Law Conference	October 2012	Omaha, Nebraska
Seminar for family court & mental health professions	May 2011	Bermuda
Association of Family & Conciliatory Courts National Conferences		
Shared physical custody: Research and custody implications	2012	Chicago
Divorced father-daughter relationships: Implications for custody	2009	Denver

Journal articles (peer reviewed) Shared parenting & children of divorce

- “Shared physical custody: Review of 46 studies” (2016) under review
- “Re-examining the role of parental conflict and child custody (2016) under review
- “Shared physical custody: Does it benefit children?” (2015) *Journal of American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers*, 28, 79-139.
- “Pop goes the woozle: Being misled by the research on child custody and parenting plans.” (2015) *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 56, 595-633.
- “Woozles: Their role in family court, custody law reform and parenting plans.” (2014) *Psychology, Public Policy and Law (American Psychological Association)*, 20, 46-67.
- “Parenting plans for infants, toddlers and preschoolers: Research and issues (2014) *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 55, 315-334.
- “Shared physical custody: Summary of 40 studies on outcomes for children” (2014) *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 55, 613-635 (** most downloaded article in the journal)

- “Shared parenting: Review of the Research” (2013) *American Journal of Family Law*, 27, 61-72 & 123-137.
- “Divorced fathers and their daughters: A research review” (2011) *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 52, 77-93.
- “Shared residential custody: Research and issues” (2011) *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 52, 586-609.
- “Disenfranchising, demeaning & demoralizing divorced dads” (1999) *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 31, 139-177.
- “Stepmothers: Why so much stress?” (1999) *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 30, 115-148.
- “College students with divorced parents” (1999) *College Student Journal*, 30, 542-573.
- “Adolescents from divorced and blended families” (1993) *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 42, 176-199.

State Bar Associations’ Magazines

- “Ten damaging myths: Shared Custody and Fathering Time” (January, 2013) *Oregon Family Law Newsletter*.
- “Shared Residential Custody: Dogma vs. Data” (January, 2013) *Nebraska Lawyer Magazine*
- “Custody for young children: Myths and Misconceptions” (March, 2013) *Wisconsin Family Law Newsletter*
- “Shared Residential Custody: Research Family Lawyers (Feb, 2013) *Atlanta Bar Association Magazine*.
- “Shared residential custody: Fact and Fiction” (October, 2012) *North Carolina Family Bar Newsletter*

Father-Daughter Relationships: Publications & professional activities

National recognition for father-daughter research

- Article by Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, Kathleen Parker about my course
- PBS documentary about my Fathers and Daughters course
- National Public Radio one hour show with Frank Stasio
- Radio, newspaper & magazine interviews including: Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post, Arizona Republic, Cosmopolitan, National PTA Magazine, Military Wives, Good Housekeeping, Seventeen, Woman’s Day, Woman’s Health, and Psychologies.

Publications: Books

- Father-Daughter Relationships: Contemporary Research and Issues* (Taylor & Francis, Routledge, 2012)
- Between Fathers & Daughters: Enriching or Rebuilding Your Adult Relationship* (Turner Publishing, 2008)
- Embracing Your Father: Building the Relationship You Always Wanted With Your Dad* (McGraw Hill, 2004)

Chapters in books

- “Father-daughter relationships” (2016, in press) in Mazza & Perry, eds. *Fatherhood in America: Social work perspectives in a changing society*. Charles Thomas Publishers
- “Fathers & daughters: A needed course in family studies” (2007) *The Craft of Teaching about Families* NY: Haworth Press.

Journal articles (peer reviewed)

- “Young adult daughters’ relationships with their fathers: Review of recent research (2014) *Marriage and Family Review Journal* , 50, 1-13.
- “College daughters’ relationships with fathers: A 15 year study (2007) *College Student Journal*, 41, 112 -123.
- “Father-daughter relationships: Review of Research” (2005) *Marriage & Family Review*, 38, 1-13.
- “Fathers & Daughters: Why a course for college students?” (2001) *College Student Journal*, 35, 280-316
- “Self-esteem & eating disorders in female undergraduates” (2000) *College Student Journal*, 34, 352-377.

Magazines

- "Strengthening father-daughter relationships in military families" (2005) *Military Spouse Magazine*, 4, 22-28.
 "How public schools can strengthen father-daughter relationships" (2009) *National PTA Magazine*
 "Helping clients with father-daughter issues" (2005) *North Carolina Counselors Association Newsletter*.

Lectures and seminars on fathers & daughters

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| National Men's Studies Association National Conference | 2008 |
| Wake Forest University: Seminars for fathers | 2008- 2010 |
| North Carolina State Conference for School Counselors | 2004 |
| National Women's Studies Association Conference | 2000 |
| University of San Francisco, Quito, Ecuador | 2000 |

Adolescent Psychology: Publications & professional activities

Books

- Adolescence: A contemporary view* (Harcourt Brace, 1987-1996, 3 editions) college textbook
How to motivate adolescents: A guide for parents, counselors and teachers (Prentice Hall, 1983)

Academic journal articles & book chapters

- "Adolescents' Locus of control and reading abilities" (1989) *Reading Improvement*, 46, 15-27.
 "Teaching adolescents self-management" (1983) *Educational Clearinghouse*, 34, 22-31.
 "Decreasing adolescents' feelings of powerlessness" (1983) *American Secondary Education*, 36, 33-41.
 "Contingency contracting with adolescents" (1980) *Programs for Special Children* Ornyx Press, Tucson, Arizona
 "Decreasing female students' math anxiety" (1979) *College Student Journal*, 13, 51-58.
 "Creative activities for teaching psychology" (1979) *New Directions in Teaching*, 6, 1-9.
 "Counseling suspended high school students" (1979) *American Personnel & Guidance Journal*, 18, 442-446.
 "Creating in-school suspension programs for adolescents" (1979) *School Counselor*, 42, 325-332.
 "Project Acumen: Helping learning disabled adolescents" (1979) *Learning Disabilities*, 45, 70-75.
 "Contingency contracting with adolescents" (1978) *Secondary Education*, 18, 12-24.
 "Effects of criterion referenced grading" (1977) *Journal Educational Research*, 14, 71-81.
 "The effects of a college contingency system" (1976) *College Student Journal*, 8, 153-168.
 "Analysis of Keller's personalized instruction system" (1976) *Experimental Education*, 44, 49-53.
 "Increasing high school students' classroom participation" (1975) *Secondary Education*, 9, 23-29.

National Conferences

- Professional development for feminist psychologists, National Association for Women in Psychology (1980)
 Decreasing female students' math anxiety. American Personnel & Guidance Association (1978)
 Creative strategies for teaching psychology. American Psychological Association (1976)

Federal Research Grants: Program designer, staff trainer & researcher

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| Project Acumen: Teaching learning disabled adolescents Guilford County Schools | 1976-1977 |
| Creating in-school suspension programs Forsyth County School System | 1977-1978 |

School Workshops: Motivating adolescents

Motivating female students Alliance of Math & Science for Girls Reidsville, NC 1985
 Motivating adolescents Guilford, Forsyth & Yadkin County Schools 1975-1985
 Establishing in-school suspension programs N.C. Center for Teachers 1979

Women and Gender Studies: Publications & professional activities

Publications

"Alchemy in academe" (1982) *Handbook for Women Scholars* U.S. Office of Education
 *National award for most outstanding paper on gender issues
 "Sexism and self-healing in the university" (1979) *Harvard Educational Review*, 49, 467-478.
 "Profile of the ideal colleague"(1979) *Improving College & University Teaching*, 27, 163-168.
 "Counseling married career women" (1976) *National Association of Women Deans, Administrators & Counselors Journal*, 8, 12-22.

Professional activities

Director: WFU Association of Women Faculty 1983 - 1985
 Director: WFU Women's Studies Internships 1985 - 2005
 Women's Studies Steering Committee 1985- 2005

