



JESSICA C. DUESLER, LCSW-BCD
Board Certified Licensed Clinical Social Worker
COLORADO FORENSIC FAMILY ADVOCACY
www.coloradoforensicfamilyadvocacy.com

CURRICULUM VITAE

PROFILE

Board Certified Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 20 years of experience. Subject matter expert, clinician, and forensic consultant in juvenile, family, delinquency, civil, and criminal matters.

BOARD CERTIFICATION

American Board of Clinical Social Work (ABCSW)
Clinical Social Work Diplomate: #61409

LICENSURE

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
Colorado: Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) #09925215
Florida: Florida State Board of Clinical Social Work (FBCSW) #23532
Texas: State Board of Social Worker Examiners (BSWE) #113851
Utah: Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing #14184317-3501
Vermont: Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) #089.0137057

Licensed Special Service Provider (SSP)
Colorado Board of Education #121410 (inactive)

CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

- Certified Divorce Mediator - Conflict Resolution Training, Inc. (2026)
- Parental Responsibilities Evaluator - Statewide, all Colo. Judicial Districts
- Child & Family Investigator - 1st/2nd/17th/18th/20th Colo. Judicial Districts (Certified 2016, 2019, 2022, 2023)
- Advanced Complex Trauma Certification level II - Arielle Schwartz, PhD, CCTPII (2023)
- Advanced Forensic Social Work - National Organization of Forensic Social Workers (2022)
- Intensive Trauma Treatment Certification: EMDR/CBT/Somatic Interventions - Arielle Schwartz, PhD. (2023)
- C-DBT: Dialectical Behavioral Therapy - Adults, Children, & Adolescents - Jean Eich, PsyD, (2022)
- Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) - Denver, CO (2021)
- Family Centered Treatment, certified practitioner - Miami, FL (2010)
- Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) - Miami, FL/Denver, CO (Certification, 2010, 2022)

SPECIALIZED CLINICAL TRAINING & PRACTICA

- Comprehensive Training for Parenting Coordinators and Decision-Makers - Dr. McNamara, PhD, PLLC. (2025)
- Cognitive Processing Therapy: An Evidence-Based Treatment for PTSD/CPTSD - Dr. Kathleen Chard (2024)
- Evaluating Complex Trauma & Dissociative Behavior in Play Therapy - CO Play Therapy Institute (2023)
- Culturally Responsive Assessment Using Narrative Therapy - University of Denver (2022)
- Therapeutic Treatment of Grief and Attachment-Related Loss - University of Denver (2021)
- DC: 0-3/0-5 Infant Mental Health Diagnostic Training - Zero to Three Org. (2011, 2016, 2021, 2026)
- Parent-Child Interactional Therapy for Traumatized Children - UC Davis CAARE Center (2018)
- Training in Domestic Violence assessment protocols: DVI; MASIC; SAFeR; Doors Framework (2024-2025)

EDUCATION

- 2006 - 2008 University of Denver
Denver, CO Master of Social Work
 Specialized Certification: Trauma Response & Recovery
- 2007 - 2007 China Youth University
Beijing, China Graduate Practicum
 Specialized Certification: International & Multicultural Social Work Practice
- 2002 - 2006 University of Northern Colorado
Greeley, CO Bachelor of Arts: Sociology

FORENSIC PRACTICE & CLINICAL BACKGROUND

- 2016 - Present Colorado Forensic Family Advocacy / JCH Clinical Services & Consulting Firm, LLC.
Statewide *Private Practice, Owner*
- Provide clinical consultation, specialized forensic evaluations, agency trainings, expert witness services, and therapeutic interventions in federal and district court-involved cases, including matters of dependency and neglect, juvenile delinquency, civil litigation, criminal proceedings, and domestic relations.
 - Areas of forensic expertise include: Parental Capacity Evaluations, Parent-Child Interactional Evaluations, Capacity to Transition Assessments, Permanency and Best Interest Analyses, Mental Health Assessments/Evaluations, Standard of Care and Reasonable Efforts analysis, and Trauma-focused Child Evaluations and Interventions.
 - Contextual-Relational Assessments of Complex Family Dynamics including: Parent-Child Contact Problems, Parental Alienation, Refuse/Resist dynamics, Parental Estrangement, and Reintegration/Reunification of Families.
 - Therapeutic services include: Out-of-home placement transitions, post-placement therapy, reintegration/reunification therapy, and child and family psychotherapy.
 - Multi-jurisdictional qualified expert witness.
 - Department of Human Services contracts (past and present) in Adams, Broomfield, El Paso, Huerfano, Las Animas, Lincoln, Pueblo, Teller, and Weld counties in Colorado.
 - Contracted expert services through the Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel, Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel, and Office of the Child's Representative.
- 2016 - Present Office of the State Court Administrator
Statewide *Child & Family Investigator/Parental Responsibilities Evaluator/Parenting Coordinator and Decision-Maker*
- Qualified Expert and Court-Appointed Parental Responsibilities Evaluator (PRE) statewide pursuant to C.R.S. §14-10-127.5 and Chief Justice Directive (CJD) 21-02.
 - Provide services to evaluate, report, and make recommendations to the Court regarding the best interests of children pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 14-10-124, 14-10-127, and 14-10-127.5.
 - PREs include evaluations and recommendations for parenting time and decision-making in the child's best interest including issues of domestic violence, coercive control, intimate partner violence, child abuse, child sexual abuse, the traumatic impacts on children; adults and families, evaluations of parenting capacity and child development, including cognitive, emotional, and psychological development and child/adult psychopathology.
 - Qualified Expert and certified Child and Family Investigator (CFI) pursuant to C.R.S. §14-10-116.5 and CJD 04-08 in the 1st, 2nd, 17th, 18th, 20th, and 23rd Colorado Judicial Districts.
 - Provide services to investigate, report, and make recommendations to the Court regarding the best interests of children pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 14-10-116 and 14-10-124.
 - CFI's include investigations and recommendations for parenting time and decision-making in the child's best interest including issues related to domestic violence, coercive control, intimate partner violence, child abuse, child sexual abuse, the traumatic impacts on children; adults/families.
 - Court-Appointed Decision-Maker (DM), and Parenting Coordinator (PC) statewide pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 14-10-128.3, 14-10-128.1, and in accordance with CJD 08-01.

- Court directed authority to issue binding decisions that clarify or facilitate the implementation of existing court orders, ensuring alignment with the substantive intent of the Court's final orders (DM).
- Provide coordination and co-parenting services for high-conflict families to assist parents with implementing court-ordered parenting plans while fostering effective co-parenting communication (PC).

2016 - 2019 Denver, CO	<u>Office of the Child's Representative (Child Advocates of Colorado)</u> <i>Clinical Consultant</i> Provided clinical consultation to Guardians ad Litem utilizing a multidisciplinary approach to advocate for the best interests of children in Dependency and Neglect, Juvenile Delinquency, and Unaccompanied Refugee Minor cases. Consultation areas included Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence, Mental Health, Child Development, Attachment, Parent-Child Visitation, Treatment Planning, and Transition Planning.
2014 - 2019 Denver, CO	<u>Private Practice</u> <i>Child & Family Therapist, Owner</i> Provided culturally responsive therapeutic services to children and families, with a focus on Dependency and Neglect cases, family preservation, attachment and bonding, family reintegration, and treatment for children experiencing complex trauma and social-emotional maladjustment. Also offered therapeutic support to adults and couples seeking relational and emotional development.
2015 - 2017 Denver, CO	<u>Griffith Centers for Children</u> <i>Individual & Family Therapist</i> Assessed, diagnosed and treated children and families with diverse backgrounds to address mental health, attachment, substance abuse, and parenting concerns in paternity and dependency & neglect cases. Provided therapeutic recommendations to the court as to the best interest of children regarding permanency considerations, visitation, and attachment related issues.
2013 - 2015 Denver, CO	<u>Denver Public Schools</u> <i>Special Service Provider (SSP) / School Social Worker</i> Brief therapeutic intervention/support services for children ages 11-18. Served on the district's Crisis Intervention Team and assisted with district-wide crisis prevention/intervention programs. Conducted social-emotional testing to evaluate/qualify children for Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Provided special education services to children with Emotional Disturbances/Emotional Behavioral Disorders (EBD). Facilitated group sessions focusing on anger management, self-harm, suicide prevention and parent support groups. Supervised masters level social work interns.
2012 - 2012 Denver, CO	<u>Adams County Human Services Department</u> <i>Child Protection Social Caseworker</i> Conducted initial intake assessments and investigations for abuse and neglect allegations and reports as a certified caseworker. Developed appropriate service and safety plans as applicable.
2010 - 2012 Miami, FL	<u>PsychSolutions, Inc.</u> <i>Therapeutic Behavioral On-site Therapist</i> Provided intensive in-home and community based family preservation services to children and families in the child welfare system specializing in attachment and bonding, mental health, out of home placement, reunification, and parenting children with complex trauma. Developed individualized treatment plans that defined culturally appropriate services and interventions for treatment. Provided expert testimony and therapeutic recommendations to the court.
2009 - 2010 Miami, FL	<u>The Institute for Family Centered Services</u> <i>Family Centered Specialist</i> Certification and implementation of Family Centered Treatment (FCT) evidence-based practice. Assessed, diagnosed, treated child welfare involved clients in outpatient settings focusing on family preservation through restructuring and repairing parent-child attachments utilizing FCT model.

2006 - 2008 Denver Department of Human Services
 Denver, CO *Sex Abuse Intake Social Caseworker, Juvenile Diversion Team, Intern*
 Conducted initial intake assessments and investigations as a certified caseworker regarding allegations of child sexual abuse. Developed appropriate service and safety plans as applicable. Completed assessments for the juvenile diversion team and participated in stakeholder meetings to navigate complex needs of youth in crisis.

ADVANCED FACULTY POSITIONS

2019 - 2022 University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work
 Denver, CO *Guest Lecturer*
 Graduate Course Lectures:
 - Social Work and the Law
 - Clinical Skills in Mental Health Therapy

2012 - 2015 Metropolitan State University, Graduate School of Social Work
 Denver, CO *Adjunct Professor*
 Professor of graduate courses:
 - Human Behavior and the Social Environment I
 - Human Behavior and the Social Environment II
 - Direct Interventions in Child Welfare Practice

PUBLICATIONS, SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS, AUTHORED WORKS

Duesler, J. (2026). More Changes in Leo's Family: Learning to Say Goodbye. Independently published (In Press).

Duesler, J. (2026). Torn: A Podcast About Racial Disparities in the Child Welfare System [Guest Expert]. Hosted by Sonia Johnson, Esq., and Classie Colinet, Esq., Social Justice Attorneys. Season 4, Episode 10: "The Weaponization of Attachment Theory" (Audio podcast).

Peer Reviewer, Ad Hoc. (2022-Present) Journal of Forensic Social Work, published by the National Organization of Forensic Social Work. (Specific focus on empirical research, conceptual analysis, & evidence-based best practices)

Duesler, J. (2025). Big Changes in Leo's Family. Sigma Publishers, Inc.

Handelman, J. (2025). Nevada State Legislature: 83rd General Session, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, Senate Bill No. 138. *Written Exhibit for SB138, Medicaid eligibility and enrollment for NICU infants*. Colorado Forensic Family Advocacy.

Handelman, J. (2023). Colorado State Legislature: 2023 Regular Session, House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services. House Bill No. 23-1024. *Exhibit G for HB23-1024, Relative & Kin Placement Of A Child*. Colorado Forensic Family Advocacy.

Handelman, J. & Jihad, M. (2022). The Weaponization of Whiteness in Child Welfare: Part 1 - Attachment. National Association of Counsel for Children: The Guardian, 44(03), 1-9.

Brown, J., Prentzel, O., & Najmabadi, S. (2022). Colorado's Failed Adoptions, Part 4: Colorado's mental health system ill-equipped to handle adopted children with severe trauma. Colorado Sun, (np).

INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Legal vs. Psychological Permanency: Reconsidering the Child's Best Interest in Permanency Decisions (2026) [Upcoming Conference Presentation]. The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse & Neglect - 2026 International Conference: Global Gathering for the Future of Child Welfare.

More than a Checkbox: Advocating for Cultural Preservation in the Juvenile Court (2026). [Conference Presentation]. National Association for Public Defense: 2026 National Conference - Rise, Resist, Represent.

Attachment in Dependency Cases: Fostering Fairness and Equity (2025). [Conference Presentation]. National Association of Counsel for Children: 48th NACC National Child Welfare Law Conference.

Reimagining Birth Parent Contact After Termination and Adoption [Conference Presentation] (2025). National Counsel for Adoption: Adoption's North Star: Elevating the Best Interests of Children. Minneapolis, MN.

Redefining Family Advocacy in the Best Interest of the Child (2025). [Conference Presentation]. National Association for Public Defense: Defending Families, Protecting Futures - The Frontlines of Defense Advocacy Skills Training. Seattle, WA.

Attachment in Dependency Cases: Fostering Fairness and Equity [Conference Presentation] (2024). The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse & Neglect - 2024 International Conference: A Call to Action to Change Child Welfare.

Attachment Theory in Child Welfare [Conference Presentation] (2023). The 46th NACC National Child Welfare Law Conference: From Learning to Action: Shared Accountability for Disrupting Harm and Promoting Healing. National Association of Counsel for Children. Minneapolis, MN.

Conflict Free Adoptions [Conference Presentation] (2022). The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse & Neglect - 2022 International Conference: A Call to Action to Change Child Welfare.

REGIONAL & STATE PRESENTATIONS/TRAININGS

When We Hold Different Pieces of the Same Map: *Navigating separate paths toward a shared destination* (2026). [Upcoming Conference Presentation: Keynote Address]. Court Improvement Program - 2026 Annual Conference Summit. Midway, UT.

Bridging the Divide When Best-Interest Perspectives Collide: *Working through the cases that keep us up at night* (2026). [Upcoming Conference Presentation]. Court Improvement Program - 2026 Annual Summit. Midway, UT.

Balancing Mental Health and Best Interests in Assessing and Considering Parenting Plans (2026) [Conference Presentation]. The 2026 Domestic Relations and Probate Institute: *Bridging Families and Futures with Empathy: Evolving Practices in Domestic and Probate Law*. Colorado Supreme Court - Office of Continuing Legal & Judicial Education. Boulder, Colorado.

Attachment on Trial: The Misuse of Attachment in Juvenile Courts (2026) [Conference Presentation]. Utah Family Defenders Association - 2026 Annual Conference. Midway, UT.

Attachment in Dependency Cases: Fostering Fairness & Equity (2025) [Conference Presentation]. Colorado Convening on Children, Youth, and Families. Colorado Supreme Court - Court Improvement Program (CIP). Vail, Colorado.

Balancing Mental Health and Best Interests in Assessing and Considering Parenting Plans (2025) [Presentation]. Irving P. Andrews - American Inn of Court. Denver, Colorado.

Effective Appointments and Use of CLRs, CFIs, and PREs in Complex Cases (2025) [Conference Presentation]. The 2025 Domestic Relations and Probate Institute: *Family Matters because Families Matter*. Colorado Supreme Court - Office of Continuing Legal & Judicial Education. Boulder, Colorado.

Fighting Back Against the Weaponization of Whiteness in Child Welfare, Part 1: Attachment & PCIs (2023) [Training Presentation]. *Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion* (JEDI) Training. Denver, CO.

Fighting Back Against the Weaponization of Whiteness in Child Welfare, Part 2: Beyond Implicit Bias (2023) [Training Presentation]. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Training. Denver, CO.

Permanency Outcomes and Attachment Theory (2023) [Presenter/Trainer]. Department of Human Services Training Series. La Plata County, CO.

Trial by Expertise: Case Examples in Dependency and Neglect Proceedings (2023) [Conference Presentation]. Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel 2023 Conference. Breckenridge, CO.

Misconceptions of Attachment Theory in Dependency and Neglect Cases (2022) [Conference Presentation]. Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel 2022 Conference. Colorado Springs, CO.

Attachment Theory & Parent Child Interactional Evaluations (2020) [Expert panel]. Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel Training Series. Denver, CO.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY IN BEST PRACTICE

- Peer reviewer for scholarly articles submitted for publication to the Journal of Forensic Social Work
- Participation in ongoing monthly supervision and clinical consultation staffing groups for complex cases
- Provide clinical supervision/training to clinicians seeking state licensure, expert witnesses, and PRE/CFIs
- Conference presentations, trainings, and summits nationwide
- Ongoing case consultation with CFIs/PREs for staffing high conflict cases

SELECT RECENT TRAININGS & CONFERENCES

- Beyond “Blended” Rethinking What Children Need in Stepfamily Systems - MDIC (2026)
- When Children Resist: Rethinking Parental Alienation in Clinical and Family Court Practice - AFCC (2026)
- Attachment and Child Development: Considerations for Parenting Time Decisions in Family Law - MDIC (2026)
- Parental Alienation Under Scrutiny: Science, Safety, and Child-Centred Practice - AFCC (2026)
- Parenting Plan Evaluations and Risk Management - COAFCC (2026)
- Fundamentals of Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations - AFCC (2026)
- AFCC's Advanced Training on Parent-Child Contact Problems - AFCC (2026)
- Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination - COAFCC (2025)
- Parent Coordination, Co-Parent Therapy, Reunification Process, and Family Therapy - FMHCA (2025)
- Screening for Intimate Partner Violence: Tools, Ethics, and Practice Tips - AFCC (2025)
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts: Fall Conference - AFCC (2025)
- Identifying Coercive Control in Complex Family Systems - COAFCC (2025)
- Understanding Child Maltreatment: Contributing Factors and Impact on Children - NCFA (2025)
- Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse: Insights, Interventions, Interruption and Next Steps. - CWLA (2025)
- Modern Adoption Practice in Colorado: Fall Series - CBA (2025)
- Parental Alienation Study Group, International Conference: Best practices in parental alienation assessment, intervention, and advocacy — a roadmap for judicial accuracy and resolution. - PASG (2025)
- Legal Abuse as a Continuation of Coercive Control - AFCC (2025)
- Understanding Family Violence / Screening for Family Violence Using the MASIC-Short - AFCC (2025)
- Embedding the DOORS Framework and the SAFer in Family Court Practice - AFCC (2025)
- Risk Assessment and Safety Planning in Family Court Practice - AFCC (2025)
- Parenting Plans in the Context of Family Violence and Working Across Cultures and Borders - AFCC (2025)
- National Adoption Conference 2025 - National Council for Adoption - NCFA (2025)
- Safety First: Strengthening Family Law Responses to Violence and Coercive Control - AFCC (2025)
- The Evaluation and Adjudication of Resist/Refuse Dynamics - Dr. Ben Garber (2025)
- Treating Intra-familial Sexual Abuse - Institute of Violence, Abuse & Trauma (2025)
- Colorado Convening on Children, Youth, and Families - Colorado Judicial Branch (2025)
- Fundamentals of Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations - AFCC (2025)
- Advanced Issues in Family Law: Parent-Child Contact Problems, Refuse and Resist Dynamics - AFCC (2025)
- Truth and Consequences of Kayden's Law: Emerging Trends - Assoc. of Family and Conciliation Courts (2025)
- Brief Focused Custody Assessments - Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (2024)
- CFI/PRE Specialized Skills Training, Forensic Reports, Applicable Legal Standards - Equipoise, LLC (2024)
- Parental Responsibilities Evaluations - Colorado School for Family Therapy (2024)
- Providing Evidence-Informed Family Psychotherapy to Court-Involved Children and Families - MDIC (2024)
- Trauma Informed Forensic Interviewing of Children - Denver Children's Advocacy Center (2024)
- The Neuro-sequential Model of Therapeutics as an Evidence-based Practice - Dr. Bruce Perry (2024)
- The Intersection of Child Welfare and Domestic Relations - COSCT (2024)
- Colorado Convening on Children, Youth, and Families - Colorado Judicial Branch (2024)

- National Counsel for Adoption: Fall Conference - NCFA (2024)
- Advanced Seminar in IPV/DV: Evidence-Based & Forensic Evaluations - CO School for Family Therapy (2024)
- National Counsel for Adoption Fall Conference - National Counsel for Adoption (2024)
- 46th National Child Welfare Law Conference - NACC (2023)
- Advocating & Planning Transitions of Young Children in Foster Care - CPP webinar by Charles Zeanah (2023)
- Adoption Competence for Mental Health Professionals in Child Welfare - National Council for Adoption (2023)
- Assessments of Adult Attachment and Parenting Styles - National Council for Adoption (2023)
- Colorado Convening on Children, Youth, and Families - Colorado Judicial Branch (2023)
- Evidence-Based Mental Health Services For Child Victims of Maltreatment - CWLA (2023)
- Intergenerational Effects of Trauma Exposure - International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (2023)
- Systems Involvement & Children's Disabilities/Education Discrimination/Implicit Bias/Trauma - NACC (2023)
- Preserving Adoption for Children with Challenging Behaviors - National Council for Adoption (2023)
- Reunification Therapy: Foundations for Success - Keira Olivas, Foundations Counseling LLC (2023)
- The Importance of Race & Culture in Adoption and Permanency Decisions - AdoptUSKids (2023)
- Understanding Coercive Control and How it Harms Children - IVAT (2023)
- Colorado Convening on Children, Youth, and Families - Colorado Judicial Branch (2022)
- Considering Intimate Partner Violence and Coercive Control - National Infant-Toddler Court Program (2022)
- Clinical Perspectives on Infant Mental Health Assessment and Treatment - Zero to Three (2021)
- Considering Culture When Assessing and Diagnosing Young Children - Zero to Three (2021)
- DV/Intimate Partner Violence & its Impact on Children and Families - MDIC (2021)
- Medical and Emotional Considerations of Child Maltreatment - MDIC (2021)
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome & Monitoring Child Development - CU Anschutz Campus (2021)
- Trauma, Substance Exposure, & Sensory/Language Development - CU Anschutz Campus (2021)
- Sexual Abuse Evaluations for Children in the Court System - MDIC (2021)
- Reunification Therapy in High Conflict Cases - MDIC (2020)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2008 - Present — National Association of Social Workers

2011 - Present — Zero to Three Organization
 Metro Denver Interdisciplinary Committee
 Association of Family & Conciliation Courts: CO, UT, FL, & TX Chapters

2020 - Present — Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health

2019 - Present — Colorado Society for Clinical Social Work

2021 - Present — National Association of Counsel For Children

2022 - Present — Forensic Social Work Alliance (National Organization of Forensic Social Work)

2023 - Present — American Board of Clinical Social Work

2024 - Present — American Academy of Pediatrics, stakeholder membership
 Justice Clearinghouse
 American Mental Health Counselors Association

2025 - Present — Colorado Bar Association

2026 - Present — Colorado Collaborative Divorce Professionals

QUALIFIED EXPERT WITNESS SCHEDULE: 2022 - PRESENT



***The curriculum vitae published on this website is not intended for use in any court proceeding or official capacity. If an official version is required, please directly request a formal, comprehensive, and up-to-date CV.**

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