



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

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

CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

- 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 & PRACTICE

- Comprehensive Training for Parenting Coordinators and Decision-Makers - Dr. McNamara, PhD, PLLC. (2025)
- CFI/PRE Specialized Skills Training, Forensic Reports, Applicable Legal Standards - Equipoise, LLC (2024)
- Parental Responsibilities Evaluations - Colorado School for Family Therapy (2024)
- 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, 2018, 2020, 2021)
- 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, Bent, Broomfield, El Paso, Las Animas, Lincoln, Pueblo, Teller, and Weld counties in Colorado
 - Contracted services through the Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel, Office of the Child's Representative, and Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel.
- 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, C.R.S. §14-10-127, and C.R.S. §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/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 C.R.S. §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, C.R.S. §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
- Office of the Child's Representative (Child Advocates of Colorado)
Clinical Consultant
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
- Private Practice
Child & Family Therapist, Owner
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
- Griffith Centers for Children
Individual & Family Therapist
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
- Denver Public Schools
Special Service Provider (SSP) / School Social Worker
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
- Adams County Human Services Department
Child Protection Social Caseworker
Conducted initial assessments and investigations as a certified caseworker regarding abuse and neglect allegations. Developed appropriate service/treatment plans as applicable and conducted intake-based duties.
- 2010 - 2012
Miami, FL
- PsychSolutions, Inc.
Therapeutic Behavioral On-site Therapist
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
- The Institute for Family Centered Services
Family Centered Specialist
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 assessments and investigations as a certified caseworker regarding allegations of child sexual abuse. Developed appropriate service/safety/treatment 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

Guest Expert. Duesler, J. (2026). Torn: A Podcast About Racial Disparities in the Child Welfare System. 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, and 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

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

From Protection to Permanency: Evidence-Based and Trauma-Responsive Forensic Practice in Child Welfare (2026). [Upcoming Conference Presentation]. Forensic Social Work Alliance (National Organization for Forensic Social Work): 2026 FSWA Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.

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). Kempe Center's 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). Kempe Center's 2022 International Conference - A Call to Action to Change Child Welfare.

STATEWIDE & REGIONAL PRESENTATIONS/TRAININGS

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

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.

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 PRACTICES

- 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
- Engagement in monthly trainings offered via AFCC, MDIC, Zero to Three Org., NCTSN, CoAIMH, etc.
- Quarterly subscription to the Zero to Three Journal

- Quarterly subscription to the National Association of Counsel For Children's law journal: The Guardian
- Ongoing case consultation with CFIs/PREs for staffing high conflict cases

SELECT RECENT TRAININGS & CONFERENCES

- 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)
- 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)
- Providing Evidence-Informed Family Psychotherapy to Court-Involved Children and Families - MDIC (2024)
- Maintaining Contact with Kin, Culture, and Community for Youth in Foster Care - DT Foundation (2024)
- Trauma Informed Forensic Interviewing of Children - Denver Children's Advocacy Center (2024)
- Legislative Update on HB 24 1350 - State Court Administrators Office (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)
- Committing to a Culture of Antiracism in the Workplace - NACC (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)
- Maintaining and Strengthening Birth Family Relationships Post-Adoption - NAFC (2023)
- Polyvagal informed EMDR: A Neuro-informed Approach to Healing - University of Denver (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)
- How Trauma affects Autism - University of Denver (2022)

- Importance of Family Preservation for Black Children in Foster Care - NACC (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:

Colorado Chapter; Utah Chapter; Florida Chapter; Texas Chapter

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

QUALIFIED EXPERT WITNESS SCHEDULE: 2020 - PRESENT

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

*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.