

# OAFM Accredited Family Law Course

(21 hours)

**Kathryn d'Artois LL.B., C.S. (Family Law), AccFM**

**d'Artois Mediation Inc.**

[www.dartoismediation.ca](http://www.dartoismediation.ca)

## Overview of Course

This 21 hour Family Law course has been accredited by the Ontario Association for Family Mediators. It is designed as both a basic and a refresher course for mediators, those about to embark on mediation training, counsellors, therapists, financial planners and other professionals who work with separated families and who do not have formal legal training. It may also be of interest to law students, law clerks and lawyers.

**Instructor: Kathryn d'Artois, LL.B., C.S. (Family Law), AccFM**

Kathryn d'Artois was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1988. She is Certified by the Law Society of Upper Canada as a Specialist in Family Law. Over the past 28 years, Kathryn has worked exclusively in the area of family law. Her current practice is devoted exclusively to alternate dispute resolution, including client-based mediation, lawyer-assisted mediation, mediation-arbitration, arbitration and parenting co-ordination.

## Course Objectives

Kathryn and a panel of expert guest speakers will provide an overview of the family law issues which are typically addressed as a consequence of separation. The course materials are designed to identify:

- 1 the legal issues which are typically addressed following the breakdown of a common-law or marital relationship;
- 2 the various dispute resolution processes which may be appropriate for and available to separated parties (mediation, mediation-arbitration, arbitration, parenting co-ordination and court proceedings);
- 3 how professionals from different disciplines (mental health, legal, financial) may work together to help separated families resolve issues in a cost-effective and timely way;
- 4 practice dilemmas and strategic challenges relating to how the various legal issues which flow from a separation may best be addressed given the particular needs of a family;
- 5 the circumstances in which it may be beneficial or is imperative for one or both parties to receive independent legal advice, financial or accounting advice and / or expert opinions; and

- 6 the importance of well-drafted mediation, arbitration and parenting co-ordination contracts, separation agreements, arbitration awards and court orders.

### Overview of Topics

Written materials and presentations are designed to provide an insightful overview of the following:

- statistics relating to partnering, separation and divorce
- evolving families
- federal and provincial legislation relating to partnering, marriage, separation and divorce
- an overview of the family court system and the family court rules which apply to separating families
- options for addressing legal issues which flow from separation (mediation, mediation-arbitration, arbitration, court proceedings and parenting co-ordination)
- considerations in the creation of parenting plans for children of all ages
- how children are affected by conflict between parents
- the duty to report children in need of protection under the **Child and Family Services Act**;
- child support law
- spousal support law
- use of Divorcemate software
- property issues arising from common-law and marital relationships
- tax issues
- domestic contracts - content, drafting
- best practices

### Guest Speakers

Participants will learn from knowledgeable guest speakers who have significant expertise in the following areas:

- 1 **Evolving Families**  
Marta Siemiarczuk, lawyer at Nelligan O'Brien Payne LLP, will offer insight into Ontario's new **All Families Are Equal Act**.
- 2 **Mediation**  
Mary-Anne Popescu, AccFM, Executive Director of OAFM, with a private practice devoted to family and elder mediation, will provide an overview of the family mediation process and the OAFM accreditation process for mediators.

**3 Arbitration**

Carol Cochrane, partner at Low, Murchison Radnoff LLP with a wealth of experience as a family law practitioner, mediator and arbitrator, will discuss family arbitrations.

**4 Overview of the Court Process Relating to Family Law**

A panel comprised of Sean Jones, retired partner at Jones Horwitz Bowles LLP, Amanda Hall, partner at Augustine Bater Binks LLP, Bruce Stedman, sole practitioner and mediator and Kerri Ross, sole practitioner and mediator, all of whom have significant expertise in family law and strong litigation experience, will provide a concise analysis of the application of the **Family Law Rules** and the court process as it relates to separated families.

**5 Developing Parenting Plans for Children**

Ron Stewart, MSW, RSW, retired mediator and parenting assessor, will provide an overview of the various factors which should be considered in the creation of parenting schedules and other components of parenting plans for children of all ages.

**6 Voice of the Child Reports**

Chantal Bourgeois, MSW, RSW, member of the Office of the Children's Lawyer, with practices in both Ontario and Quebec, will provide participants with insight into the preparation of Voice of the Child Reports for use by mediators, arbitrators and courts.

**7 Assessment and Intervention with High Conflict Families**

Dr. Arthur Leonoff, Ph.D., C. Psych., FIPA Supervising & Training Analyst Canadian Psychoanalytic Society, will discuss assessment and intervention in high conflict families.

**8 Parenting Co-Ordination**

Marianne Cuhaci, MSW, RSW, AccFM, social worker, whose current practice is devoted to mediation, arbitration, parenting co-ordination and therapeutic support for separated families, will provide an in-depth look at the parenting co-ordination process.

**9 Tax Issues**

Cynthia Funolfson, CPA, CA, CFF, CBV will present on tax and valuation issues arising on separation.

9 **Property Rights for Common-Law Partners**

Pam MacEachern, leader of the Family Law Group at Nelligan O'Brien Payne LLP, who argued the leading case relating to property rights for common-law partners in the Supreme Court of Canada, will discuss property rights for separated common-law partners.

10 **Divorcemate Software**

Michael Perlman, President of Divorcemate Software, will demonstrate how the Divorcemate software is used to address property and support issues.

11 **Spousal and Child Support**

A panel comprised of Carol Crawford, senior partner at Gowlings LLP, Greg Ste. Marie, partner at Burke Robertson LLP, Ron Paritzky, lawyer at MacKinnon Phillips LLP, Ian Vallance, partner at Victor Ages Vallance and Barbara Cohen, family law lawyer and mediator, will all bring a wealth of family law expertise and experience to their discussions relating to the determination of income and appropriate child and spousal support arrangements.

**Date:** April 6, 7 and 8, 2017

**Location:** Ottawa, ON (\*specific location to be announced at a later date)

**Cost:** \$1,050 plus HST

**Registration:**

To register, please email the attached registration form to Mary Sue Tompkins at [mary.sue@dartoismediation.ca](mailto:mary.sue@dartoismediation.ca) by Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Full payment is due before registration is confirmed.

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## REGISTRATION FORM

**Date:** Thursday, Friday and Saturday, **April 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Time:** 9 am to 5 pm daily (Breakfast and Registration at 8:30 am)

**Location:** To be Determined at Close of Registration

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(as you would like it to appear on your Certificate)

**Firm/Company/Practice Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (Other) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Identify any Food Allergies / Intolerances / Special Dietary Restrictions:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Professional Discipline:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Catering Provided by BLK KEY**

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