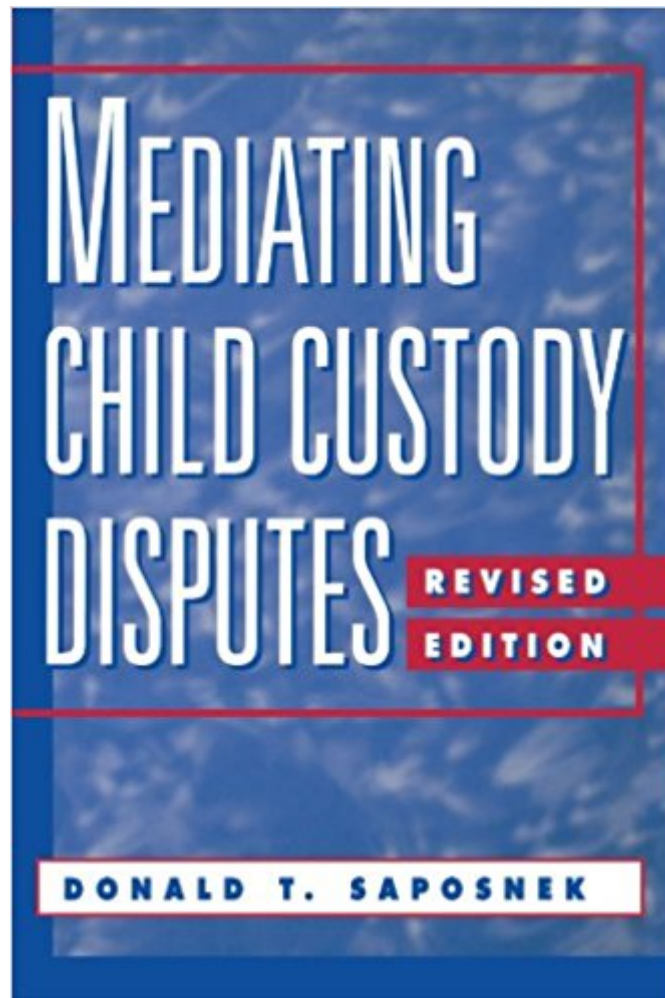




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Mediating Child Custody Disputes: A Strategic Approach



Synopsis

Effective Mediation Seasoned mediator Donald Saposnek has revised and updated his classic primer which offers the most current information on issues and procedures concerning child custody mediation and includes important updates on new research and laws. Using metaphors drawn from Aikido, Saposnek's compassionate book offers guidance for developing the essential therapeutic skills and mediation techniques that will help solve difficult problems and create cooperation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This book should be required reading for anyone who is beginning to mediate child custody disputes." (Mediation News) "The best book now available focused on the custody mediation process." (The Alternative Newsletter) "The seminal work in systems theory applied to mediation, this will be invaluable to all practicing mediators as well as other professionals involved in custody disputes." "This revised book is a gem. Saposnek's compassionate, ethical, and strategic approach is carefully balanced with an in-depth knowledge of families-- essential reference." (Janet R. Johnston, executive director, Judith Wallerstein Center for the Family in Transition, associate professor, Administration for Justice Department, San Jose State University) "Don Saposnek, one of the fellow pioneers in mediating child custody disputes, has completely updated his classic work. This new edition contains valuable new case material gleaned over twenty years of mediating these disputes. Many authors have written about mediation, but few have the depth and breadth of experience of Don Saposnek." (Hugh McIsaac, director, Family Court Services, Multnomah County Circuit Court, Portland, Oregon) "This classic guide has been thoroughly updated and enhanced. It

is a must read for those becoming custody mediators and a helpful reference for experienced mediators." (Jay Folberg, dean and professor of law, University of San Francisco School of Law and co-author, Divorce Mediation, Joint Custody and Shared Parenting, and Mediation)

"The seminal work in systems theory applied to mediation, this will be invaluable to all practicing mediators as well as other professionals involved in custody disputes." —Library Journal

The author does a good job of sharing his years of experience and covers many areas of divorce that readers will have great benefit. However, I didn't give 5 stars because about 30% of parents who divorce, are in a high conflict divorce that from a spouse who has a mental illness, and yet the author doesn't mention any personality disorders - which are critical to understand when in mediation (even if you don't have a medical diagnosis for that parent as most don't not submit themselves to be diagnosed). Long accepted research indicates that about 10% of the adult population has a narcissistic or borderline personality disorder, or both. I have empathy for these people, they did not ask to have a personality disorder, and they suffer from it. You can probably reflect on what you know about your ex-spouse's childhood the possible causes for their disorder and their current family relationships to recognize and validate that they have one. Tell-tale sign - that just aren't rational anymore. Since it is inherent with both disorders there is a lack of self-insight to recognize that there is something wrong with them, they never see a need to seek treatment - so they never great "better". With both disorders, they have an underlying core belief of personal inadequacy and anticipated abandonment - which scares them deeply and drives their insidious behavior with the children. Also unfortunate is that in a divorce situation, their personality disorder prevents them from any ability to recognize that their child's own mental health will be severely damaged if the other parent is prevented from having a normal parenting role in their life - or worse, the child is manipulated to fear and hate the other parent. The narcissistic/borderline parent is driven by their own core fear and will do ANYTHING to prevent the child from having ANY relationship with the other parent, including lying to the child, lying to courts, and manipulating the child to hate the other parent. The common term for this is parental alienation. Search "parental alienation" on Amazon and you will see 250+ books. Many books focus on describing what parental alienation is and how that parent does it. I recommend 2 books that include the critical guidance on steps you can take to reduce / prevent parental alienation, they are by authors Amy J. L. Baker, PhD and Bill Eddy, LCSW, JD. Act quickly by getting educated and stopping the alienation before it gets to deeply ingrained in their highly susceptible brains. Your children need you to act right now to

buy and read those books and/or research parental alienation online and on YouTube. You are likely exhausted by the challenges of divorce and money is tighter than ever, but the EFFORT and financial investments you make now (in a lawyer who specializes in parental alienation - they are rare, test them on their experience and knowledge), will save you huge money and heartache (for you and your kids) in the long run. Good luck.

This is for the people I have to face. I am more aware of what they should be doing, but how do I move them into the right direction if we are assigned someone who hasn't read this book.

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