

# Mediating with Military Families

## *Training Agenda*

Holiday Inn Campus, Manhattan, Kansas  
September 15, 2017 - 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Military families are special. They have special needs, special benefits, and some special challenges, especially during a divorce or separation. This training will provide domestic mediators, attorney-mediators, attorneys, and other social service professionals with information and resources to better equip them to work with military families. The presenters will focus on the development of parenting plans and referral resources that address the unique needs of military parents and their children. The presentation will include information on the effects of combat trauma and stress on service personnel and their families and how those factors exacerbate the stress of divorce.

**8:30-9:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee**

**9:00-10:00 a.m. A Cultural Overview of Military Families** – Tonya Ricklefs, M.S.W., Ph.D.

Dr. Ricklefs will provide an overview of the military culture and the unique strengths and challenges that military families have. This information will assist individuals who work with military families in helping with the stressors of divorce or family transition.

**10:00-11:00 a.m. Children of Military Divorce** – Aline Cole Barrett, M.A., J.D.

Ms. Barrett will present information concerning the challenges and advantages of growing up military and how those factors affect children when their parents separate or divorce. She will focus on the unique problems that military children may face and how mediators and attorneys can help parents to assess and respond to their children's needs.

**11:00-12:00 p.m. Trauma Informed Care** – Susie Massoth, M.D.

Dr. Massoth, a psychiatrist, will provide an overview of posttraumatic distress disorder at social, individual, and biological levels, including information about improved treatment for PTSD. This information will help mediators, attorneys, and other professionals to recognize the symptoms of PTSD in their clients and to make accommodations that may make mediation, co-parenting, and other interactions more successful.

<b>12:00-1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b> – A working lunch will be provided so that attendees may network with presenters and other attendees and learn from resource providers who will have informational booths and brochures.
<b>1:00-2:30 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Domestic Mediation with Military Families: How can we best serve these families?</b> This will be a panel discussion involving legal and clinical providers and the audience. Hypothetical case studies and other questions will spark discussion about the unique aspects of military family parenting plans, concerns about domestic violence, and other issues pertinent to military divorce.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Representative - Judge Advocate General Office, Ft. Riley</li> <li>2. Family Court Judge - Riley/Geary Counties District Courts</li> <li>3. Domestic Mediator – Dr. Tonya Ricklefs</li> <li>4. Psychiatrist &amp; Brain Injury Expert – Dr. Susie Massoth</li> </ol>
<b>2:30-2:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>2:45-3:15 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Question and Answer Segment</b></p> <p>This is an opportunity for the attendees to ask questions of panel members and other presenters.</p>
<b>3:15-3:45 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Resources for Military Families</b> – Carolyn Tolliver-Lee, M.Ed., M.S.</p> <p>Ms. Tolliver-Lee, a Family Advocacy Program Specialist, will present information about local, regional, and online resources that are available for military members and their families and how professionals can access this referral resource information.</p> <p>Referral resources, guides for mediation of issues, where to go to get questions answered, etc.</p>
<b>3:45-4:45 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Ethics Jeopardy</b> – Art Thompson</p> <p>Mr. Thompson, who formerly was the Kansas Supreme Court Director of Dispute Resolution, will present an enjoyable hour of attorney/mediator ethics education. The audience will select from among the six subject areas. As with the real game of Jeopardy, the most points are given for the hardest questions. The six topic areas are: confidentiality, neutrality, conflict of interest, attorneys as mediators, good faith bargaining, and reports to courts. The answers primarily come from the Rules of the Supreme Court, which govern mediation in Kansas courts, but others come from ethics investigations and court cases in other states.</p>
<b>4:45-5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Closing Statements and CLE/CME Certificate Distribution</b>