


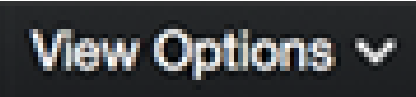


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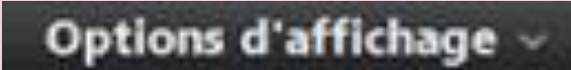
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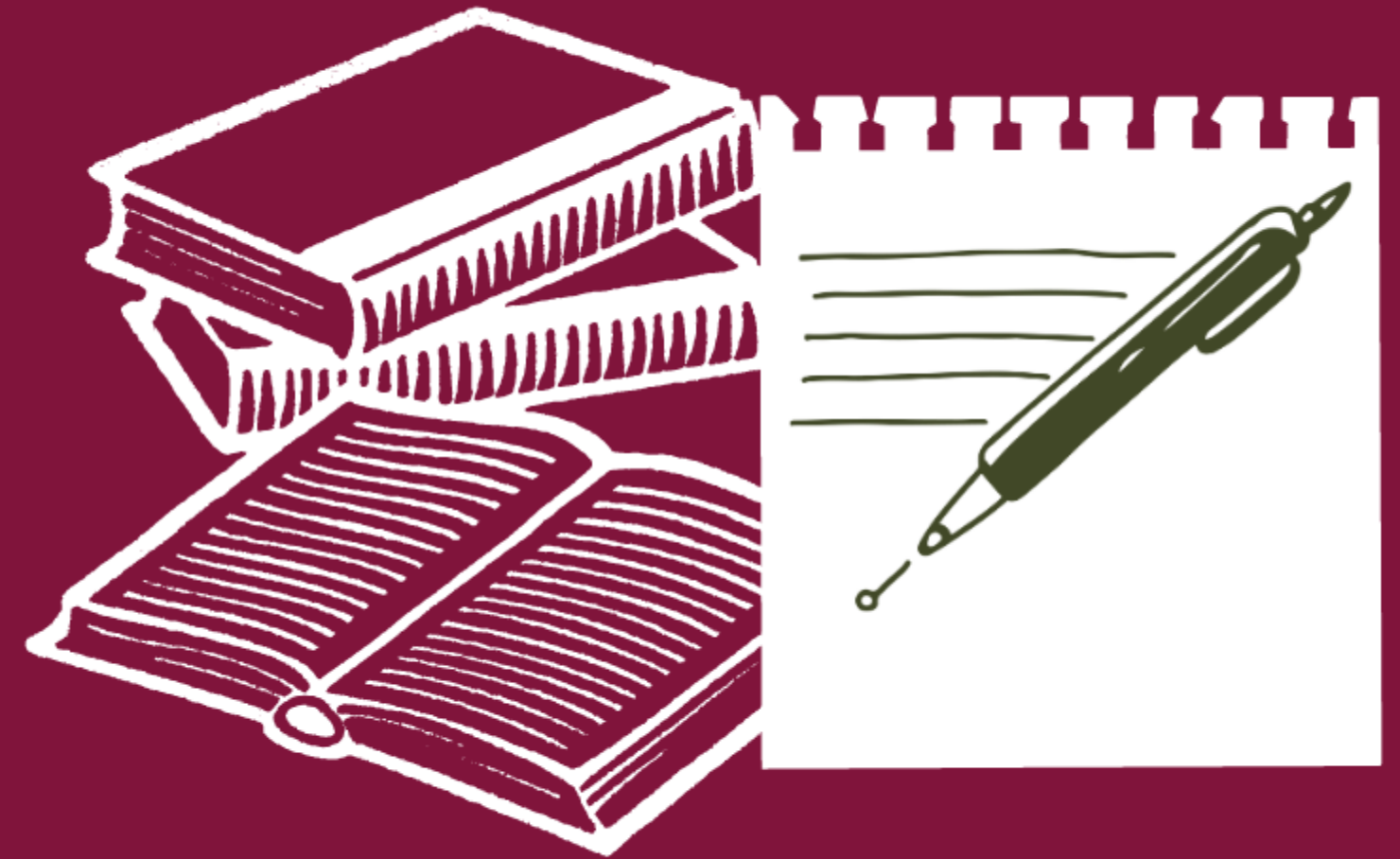
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Webinar Guidelines

- All participants automatically have their mics and cameras off.
- If you have questions for presenters, please type them into the Q&A box.
- There will be an evaluation form link that automatically opens in your browser after the Webinar has ended. A Certificate of Participation will be generated once you complete this evaluation.

From Awareness to Action

An Efficient Family Violence
Screening Tool for Mediators:
The MASIC-S



Please think about the traditional lands you are currently situated on and join us in acknowledging and thanking the generations of Indigenous Peoples who have cared for these Lands, and in celebrating the continued strength and spirit of Indigenous Peoples.

The ongoing work to make the promise of truth and reconciliation real in our communities and in particular to bring justice for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls across the country should inform our discussions in this event and beyond.



From Awareness to Action (A2A)

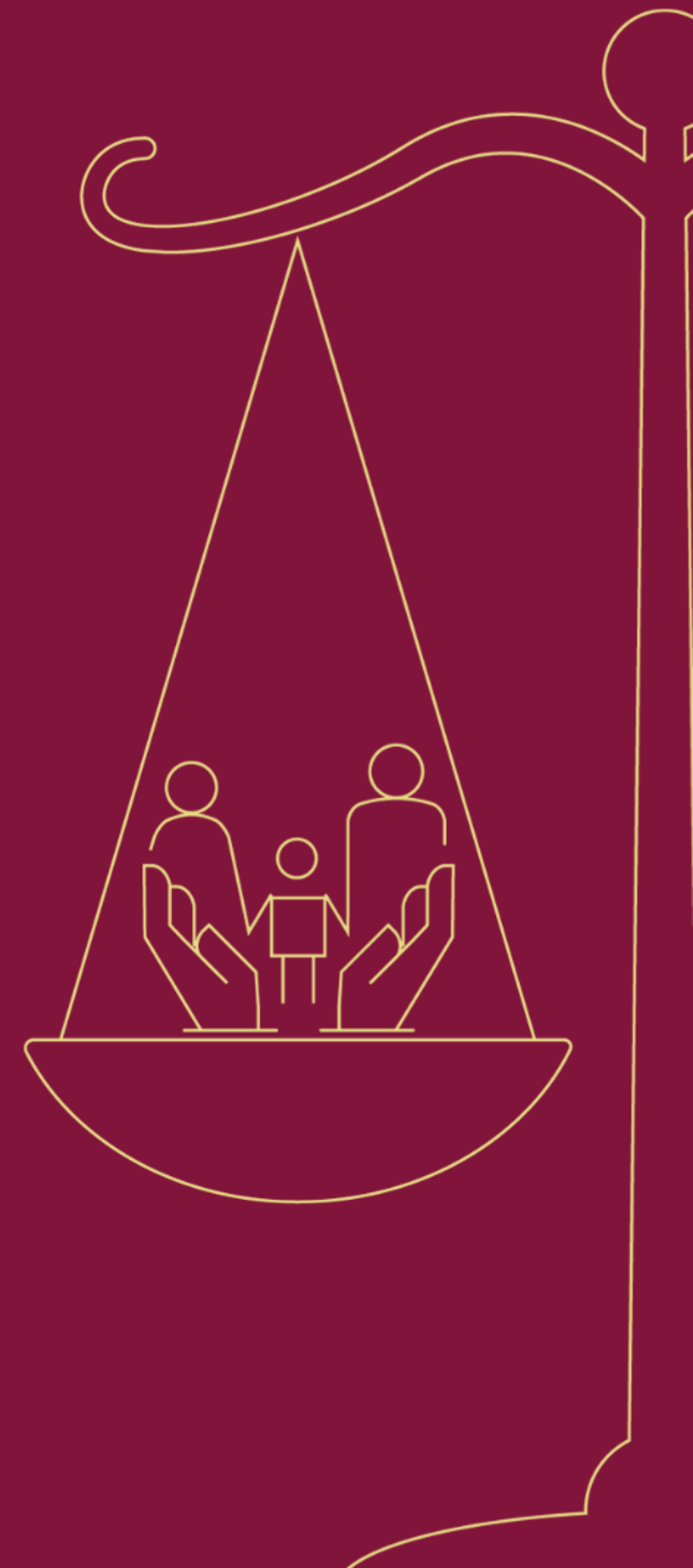
This project, funded by the Department of Justice Canada, supports the continuation of five regional Communities of Practice through the Alliance of Canadian Research Centres on Gender-Based Violence. These Communities of Practice are comprised of survivors of family violence and representatives from the gender-based violence (GBV), health, and family law sectors, and work together to:

- Enhance training opportunities for GBV and family law specialists to support trauma-informed practice.
- Promote standardized assessment tools to enhance the substantive and procedural decision- and recommendation-making by multidisciplinary family law professionals involved in family violence-related child custody matters (including judges, lawyers, and assessors).



A2A Resources

- **Briefs** are documents that address issues related to family violence and family law. Topics include treating children as full rights bearers, access to justice, trauma informed approaches to family violence in family law, and more.
- **Legal Bulletins** are written summaries of recent court decisions related to family law proceedings. Court decisions covered include *Harley v. Harley*, *Dayboll v. Binag*, and *LS v. BS*.
- **Webinars** provide learning opportunities to build capacity of practitioners in the field of violence prevention and family law. They are offered live, and recordings are posted on our website.



Amy G. Applegate

Amy G. Applegate, Clinical Professor of Law and Ralph F. Fuchs Faculty Fellow, and Director of the Civil Protection Order Clinic, joined the faculty at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in 2001, after a career in private and government practice.

In the current clinic she teaches, Applegate has introduced screening for intimate partner violence (“IPV”) with clients seeking civil protection orders. Applegate has also taught mediation theory and practice in the clinical law program that she developed at the Law School.

Applegate has received teaching, research, and service awards for her work. She has been a leader in clinical legal education on the national level in the United States, and actively and significantly involved in state and local bar activities, with a special emphasis in the areas of delivery of pro bono services, training mediators, and mediation ethics. Applegate and colleagues have conducted research on family law issues, focusing on families experiencing parental divorce or separation. Applegate and colleagues have also conducted randomized controlled trials testing the effectiveness of family law interventions, including different mediation approaches (for both families with and without histories of IPV) and online parent education programs.

Applegate has co-authored many publications in her research areas. Additionally, she has presented individually, as well as with her collaborators, in presentations at state, national, and international conferences about her research and practice areas.

Amy G. Applegate est professeure en droit clinique et fellow de la Faculté Ralph F. Fuchs et directrice de la *Civil Protection Order Clinic*. Elle a rejoint la faculté de droit de la Indiana University Maurer School of Law en 2001 après une carrière dans les secteurs privé et public.

Dans les cours qu’elle enseigne actuellement, Amy Applegate a introduit le dépistage de la violence entre partenaires intimes (« VPI ») auprès des clients et clientes qui cherchent à obtenir des ordonnances civiles de protection. Amy Applegate a également enseigné la théorie et la pratique de la médiation dans le cadre du programme de droit clinique qu’elle a mis en place à cette faculté de droit.

Amy Applegate a été récipiendaire des prix en enseignement, en recherche et de services à la communauté pour son travail. Elle a joué un rôle de premier plan dans la formation juridique clinique au niveau national aux États-Unis et s’est impliquée de manière significative dans les activités du barreau local et de l’État, en mettant l’accent sur la prestation de services *pro bono*, la formation des médiateurs et la déontologie de la médiation. Amy Applegate et ses collègues ont enfin mené des essais contrôlés randomisés pour tester l’efficacité des interventions en matière de droit de la famille, y compris différentes démarches de médiation (pour des familles avec ou sans antécédents de VPI) et des programmes d’éducation parentale en ligne.

Elle est coauteure de nombreuses publications dans ses domaines de recherche. En outre, elle a livré personnellement des présentations, ainsi qu’avec ses collaboratrices et collaborateurs, lors de conférences nationales et internationales sur ses domaines de recherche et de pratique.

Annamaria M. Walsh

Annamaria M. Walsh, Esq., is the Director of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Division of the Appellate Court of Maryland, where she supervises a team of highly skilled staff attorney-mediators and manages the daily operations of the Division.

In addition to her supervisory and program development roles, she co-mediate civil appellate cases with Senior Judge-Mediators, screens cases for appropriateness, and prepares orders and remands to dispense of pending appeals.

Ms. Walsh previously served as the Director of the Office of Family Mediation in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, which provides mediation services in over 800 contested child access cases every year. Prior to joining the Judiciary, Ms. Walsh maintained a private family law litigation and mediation practice.

Ms. Walsh received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, *magna cum laude*, from Towson State University, and her Juris Doctorate, *cum laude*, from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Annamaria M. Walsh, Me, est directrice de la division des modes alternatifs de résolution des conflits de la Cour d'appel du Maryland, où elle supervise une équipe d'avocats médiateurs hautement compétents et gère les activités quotidiennes de ce service.

En plus de ses fonctions de supervision et de développement de programmes, elle est co-médiatrice pour des affaires d'appel au civil avec des juges médiateurs principaux et doit vérifier la pertinence des affaires entendues et préparer les ordonnances et les renvois afin de régler les appels en cours.

Annamaria Walsh était auparavant directrice de l'Office of Family Mediation du tribunal itinérant du comté de Baltimore, qui fournit des services de médiation dans plus de 800 causes contestées de droit de visite des enfants chaque année. Avant de rejoindre la magistrature, elle a exercé dans le secteur privé (contentieux et médiation) dans le domaine du droit de la famille.

Annamaria Walsh est titulaire d'une licence en sociologie (*magna cum laude*) de l'université d'État de Towson et d'un doctorat en droit (*cum laude*) de la faculté de droit de l'Université de Baltimore.

Hilary Linton

Hilary Linton practised family law in Toronto before starting a family mediation, arbitration and parenting coordination firm in 2021. At Riverdale Mediation she works with a team of lawyers and a retired judge to deliver high quality dispute resolution services.

As a mediation trainer, Hilary teaches legal and mental health students from many jurisdictions the best practices in identifying, assessing and managing power imbalance and IPV risk in all areas of family dispute resolution. Hilary also supervises family mediators in Toronto's three family courts (Toronto Family Mediation Services.)

She has designed standardized procedures for screening in this context, incorporating the MASIC and more recently the MASIC-s tool into protocols for mediators. Hilary was a member of the Advisory Group that developed the seminal *HELP Toolkit: Identifying and Responding to Family Violence for Family Law Legal Advisers*, published on the Justice Canada website. She is also the author of the Ontario Judges' and Lawyers' Guide to Safety Planning, Ontario Family Law Practice (Vol 2), 2024. (Lexis Nexis).

Hilary Linton a pratiqué le droit de la famille à Toronto avant de créer un cabinet de médiation familiale, d'arbitrage et de coordination parentale en 2021. À Riverdale Mediation, elle travaille avec une équipe d'avocats et un juge à la retraite afin de fournir des services de résolution des conflits de haut niveau.

En tant que formatrice en médiation, Hilary Linton enseigne aux étudiants en droit et en santé mentale de nombreuses juridictions les meilleures pratiques pour identifier, évaluer et gérer les risques de déséquilibre de pouvoir et de violence entre partenaires intimes dans tous les domaines de la résolution des conflits familiaux. Elle supervise de plus des médiateurs familiaux dans les trois tribunaux de la famille de Toronto (Toronto Family Mediation Services).

Hilary Linton a conçu des procédures normalisées pour le dépistage dans ce contexte, en intégrant l'outil MASIC et plus récemment, l'outil MASIC-S dans les protocoles destinés aux médiateurs et médiatrices. Elle a été membre du groupe consultatif qui a élaboré la trousse à outils de base *HELP Toolkit : Identifying and Responding to Family Violence for Family Law Legal Advisers* (la Trousse d'outils AIDE : Comment repérer les cas de violence familiale et intervenir pour les conseillères et conseillers juridiques en droit de la famille), publiée sur le site Web du ministère Justice Canada. Elle est aussi l'auteure du *Ontario Judges' and Lawyers' Guide to Safety Planning, Ontario Family Law Practice* (volume 2), 2024 (Lexis Nexis).

Presented by:
Amy G. Applegate
Hilary Linton
Annamaria M. Walsh

An Efficient Family Violence Screening Tool for Mediators: the MASIC-S

Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women &
Children, Western University
February 1, 2024

Research Team and Co-Authors:

Amy Holtzworth-Munroe
Connie J. Beck
Amy G. Applegate
Jeannie Adams
Fernanda Rossi
Lily Jiang
Claire Tomlinson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to acknowledge and thank Professor Applegate's colleagues who provided much of the content for slides 2-12. Special thanks to Professor Amy Holtzworth-Munroe, Professor Fernanda S. Rossi, and Lily J. Jiang, PhD.

Family Violence* and Mediation for Separating and Divorcing Parents: What We Now Know

* We use the term *Intimate Partner Violence* (IPV), defined as "any behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship...including emotional abuse and controlling behaviors by an intimate partner" (WHO, 2012)

IPV and Custody Decisions: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Outcomes from Family Court, Shuttle Mediation or Videoconferencing Mediation

Key Personnel: Holtzworth-Munroe, Beck, Applegate, Adams, Rossi, & Darrell Hale

Two Published Studies:

- ***Immediate Outcomes:*** Holtzworth-Munroe, A., Beck, C. J., Applegate, A. G., Adams, J. M., Rossi, F. S., Jiang, L. J., Tomlinson, C. S., & Hale, D. F. (2021). *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 27(1), 45-64.
<http://dx.doi.org.proxyiub.uits.iu.edu/10.1037/law0000278>
- ***Follow-Up Findings:*** Holtzworth-Munroe, A., Applegate, A.G., Beck, C.J., Rossi, F.S., Adams, J.M., Jiang, L.J., Tomlinson, C.S., & Hale, D.F. (2021). *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 27(4), 581-596.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/law0000309>

Funded by: National Institute of Justice

This project was supported by Award No. 2013-VA-CX-0044, awarded by the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.

GOAL: Compare two specialized forms of mediation (shuttle and videoconferencing), to each other and to court process, for parents reporting high or concerning levels of IPV

Shuttle Mediation

(49 cases):

- **Separate rooms (never together)**
- **Mediator shuttles back and forth between parties**
- **Parties did not see or hear one another**

Video Mediation

(50 cases):

- **Separate rooms (never physically together)**
- **Mediator in third room**
- **Parties could see and hear one another and mediator via computer screen, with safeguards for some or all of the mediation**

Return to Court

(67 cases):

- **Case sent back to court without court-annexed mediation**

Key Outcomes Reported by the Mediators

No significant difference in feelings of safety reported (for mediators and both parents) in the two mediation conditions

No significant difference in time spent mediating in the two mediation conditions

Other differences:

More comfortable or satisfied with shuttle vs video (trend)

Shuttle more appropriate than video (trend)

Video (vs shuttle) should have been handled with a different approach*

Shuttle (vs video) had a positive impact on the outcome of the case and the ability of the parties to reach agreement*

* = statistically significant difference

Immediate Outcomes Reported by the Parties with Statistically Significant Differences Reported for Both Forms of Mediation vs Court

- Safety during the process* (though males felt safer and less fearful vs females)
- More satisfied with the process*
- More comfortable during the process, and satisfied that concerns were heard and understood, process was fair, and process required parties to be respectful of each other*
- More appropriate process*
- Less upset during process*
- More comfortable that the parties will follow the terms of the resolution*

**Immediate
Outcomes
Reported by
the Parties with
No Statistically
Significant
Differences
Across Study
Conditions**

Process will result in:

- Positive family outcomes
- Positive financial outcomes

Satisfaction with:

- Outcome (overall)
- Final resolution (for those who reached resolution)
- Not having reached final resolution (for those who did not)

Agreement rates:

Video half as likely to reach settlement as Shuttle or Return to Court

Time to final resolution:

Court cases took much longer to resolve than either shuttle or video mediation*

Resolution of cases

Resolution of cases

Generally, no significant difference in terms of resolution across conditions except:

1) First option childcare significantly more likely to be addressed in both forms of mediation (vs court)*

2) Restrictions on and aspirational language re interparental communications more likely to be addressed in both forms of mediation (vs court)*

3) Child exchanges significantly more likely to take place at parent home(s) in both forms of mediation (vs court)*

Outcomes 1 year later

High or concerning IPV still reported but at significantly lower levels (no significant differences across conditions)

Low re-litigation rates across conditions (no significant differences across conditions)

Most of the positive differences for specialized mediation (vs court) no longer reported

Other findings:

Video > Shuttle: PTSD from Other Parent's Perpetrated IPV* and Harassment from Other Parent (trend)

Shuttle > Video: Positive Co-parenting (trend) and Process Resulted in Positive Family Outcomes (trend)

Court > Mediation: Parents' Perceived Social Support from Others*

Generally, no significant differences across conditions, but mothers reporting children at risk for future problems across all conditions

Researchers' Recommendations Based on Study Outcomes and Other Research

Mediation approaches designed to protect party safety can be a viable option for some cases with high or concerning levels of IPV.

Relative to return to court, mediation can do:

- Better, in immediate outcomes and time to resolution
- As well as, over a one-year period

Specialized mediation can be appropriate for resolving disputes in cases with high or concerning levels of IPV, with *caveats*....

- Shuttle as the "go to" or starting point for mediation; use video cautiously
- When parties appear in-person for specialized mediation, need a *safe environment* or setting
- Joint in-person mediation inappropriate

Parties with a history of high or concerning levels of IPV *should not be mandated to mediate*

Note: Study did not examine the appropriateness of court-mandated mediation in this context, as all study participants were willing to be assigned to mediation

Whether mediating or not mediating cases involving high or concerning levels of IPV, appropriate screening must be conducted before mediation and continue through the process.

Important to Remember:

- The existence of IPV in a couple or family is often not recognizable without proper screening
- Many people who experience IPV do not disclose to others, much less pursue orders of protection, call the police, and/or press criminal charges

Two published studies demonstrating need for comprehensive, behaviorally specific IPV Screening

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to acknowledge and thank Professor Applegate's colleagues identified here and in the remaining slides who provided much of the content for slides 13-25. Special thanks to Professor Amy Holtzworth-Munroe, Professor Fernanda S. Rossi, and Lily J. Jiang, PhD.



Ballard, R.H., Holtzworth-Munroe, A., Applegate, A.G., & Beck, C.J.A. (2011). Detecting intimate partner violence in family and divorce mediation: A randomized trial of intimate partner violence screening. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 17, 241-263.



Rossi, F.S., Holtzworth-Munroe, A., Applegate, A.G., Beck, C.J.A., Adams, J.M., & Hale, D.F. (2015). Detection of intimate partner violence and recommendation for joint family mediation: A randomized controlled trial of two screening measures. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 21:3, 239-251.

Mediator's Assessment of Safety Issues and Concerns (MASIC)

Behaviorally-specific IPV screen (e.g., hit or punch you?)

Conducted as interview during intake with parties separately (screening done by mediator or shared with mediator)

Each party's report of the other party's IPV perpetration
(no self-incrimination)

Freely available

Introduction of MASIC:

Holtzworth-Munroe, A., Beck, C.J.A., & Applegate, A.G. (2010). The Mediator's Assessment of Safety Issues and Concerns (MASIC): A Screening Interview for Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse Available in the Public Domain. *Family Court Review*, Vol. 48, No. 4, 646-662. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-1617.2010.001339.x>

37 items about IPV

Multi-Dimensional:

- Psychological abuse
- Coercive controlling behaviors
- Threats of severe violence
- Physical violence (includes severe physical violence)
- Sexual violence
- Stalking

Additional items (consequences of IPV):

- Injury (severe injury)
- Fear

Details
of MASIC

Pokman, V., Rossi, F.S., Holtzworth-
Munroe, A., Beck, C.J.A.,
Applegate, A.G., & D'Onofrio, B.M.
(2014).

Mediator's assessment of safety
issues and concerns (MASIC):
Reliability and validity of a new
intimate partner violence screen.
Assessment, 21, 529-542. DOI:
10.1177/107319111452872

Evidence of MASIC
Reliability

Reaction to MASIC

Positive:

Used in many places by mediators and mediation programs

Concerns:

Concerns about length of screen led to decision to shorten MASIC:

Applegate, A.G., Rossi, F.S., Holtzworth-Munroe, A., Beck, C.J., & Jiang, L.J. (2020). In a Time of Great Need, a New, Shorter Tool Helps Screen for Intimate Partner Violence. *American Bar Association (ABA) Dispute Resolution Magazine*



IPV questions that identify parties reporting highest levels of IPV

* Two standard deviations above the mean

* 18 IPV items + added related questions (e.g., fear, injury)

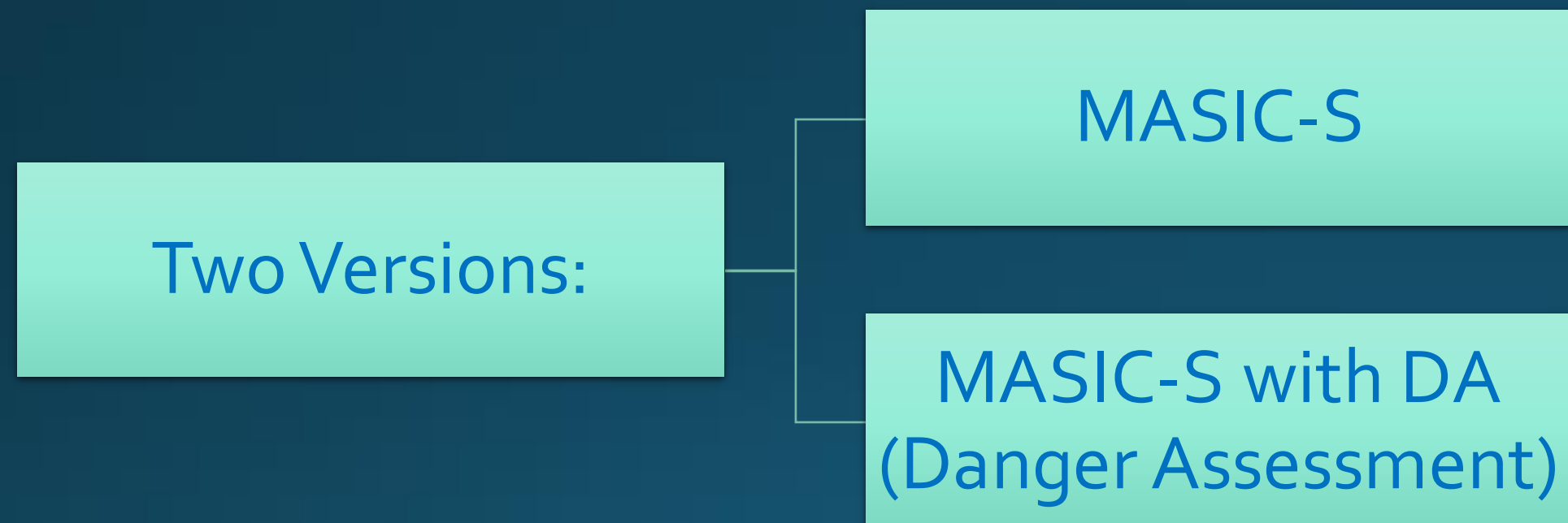


Used MASIC data collected from 904 mediating parties from differing mediation centers and clinics in the US and Australia

Fernanda S. Rossi used Item Response Theory (IRT) in a study to shorten the MASIC.

Published in Rossi, F. S., Applegate, A.G., & Beck, C. J., Timko, C., & Holtzworth-Munroe, A. (2022). Screening for intimate partner violence in family mediation: An examination of multiple methodological approaches using item response theory. *Assessment*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10731911211022843>

Shortened MASIC



MASIC-S is administered online, with automatic scoring and branching logic (more branching with DA questions)

- **Increases efficiency**
- **Individualized to each party**

Danger Assessment

Danger Assessment questions (Campbell) added in earlier version:

- <https://www.familyjusticecenter.org/resources/danger-assessment/>
- Questions that empirically predict risk of lethal IPV towards women
- Specialized training for DA required



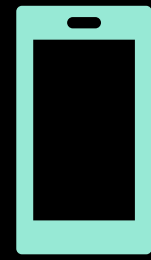
Introduction of
Shortened MASIC

Rossi, F. S., Applegate, A. G., Tomlinson, C., & Holtzworth-Munroe, A. (2023).

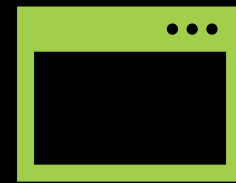
Intimate partner violence screening for separating or divorcing parents: An introduction to the Mediator's Assessment of Safety Issues and Concerns-Short (MASIC-S). *Family Court Review*, 1-16.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/fcre.12762>

Goals of Shortened MASIC



Easy to use



MASIC-S (without DA) version is freely accessible at:
<https://odr.com/masic-s/>



11% statistic: Wissler, Roselle and Hinshaw, Art, What Happens Before the First Mediation Session? An Empirical Study of Pre-Session Communications (2022). 23 Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution 143 (2022), Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4061179>

Notes and
Instructions for
the Screener

*Comprehensive
Guidance*

Video
Introduction

Script

Getting Started: odr.com/masic-s

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4
Mandatory (unless screener concludes that no form of mediation is appropriate after the 1st party interview)	If any question in Section 1 is answered "Yes"	Always optional	Always mandatory

The Interview: Party Evaluation (1 for each party)

Scoring
odr.com/masic-s

MASIC-S Score =

IPV/A score (Total number of "Yes" responses to Questions 1–24)

Recent/Increasing IPV/A

Fear and/or Injury

Documentation
(odr.com/masic-s)



All party answers
& total MASIC-S
Score
[downloadable
PDF version to be
saved by screener]



MASIC-S Scoring Forms

- ➔ 10 or higher AND presence of current fear and severe or permanent injury
- ➔ 1-9 AND presence of current fear and severe or permanent injury
- ➔ 3 or higher without current fear and severe or permanent injury
- ➔ 2 without current fear and severe or permanent injury
- ➔ Score of 0
- ➔
- ➔

Scores & Screener Actions

10 or higher AND presence of current fear and severe or permanent injury:

Mandatory referral to DV advocate & accommodations (including no joint in-person mediation)

1-9 AND presence of current fear and severe or permanent injury:

Accommodations, including no joint in-person mediation

3 or higher without current fear and severe or permanent injury:

General rule: no joint in-person mediation (but screener decision on accommodations based on party report and clinical judgment)

1-2 without current fear and severe or permanent injury:

Screener decision on accommodations based on party report and clinical judgment

Score of 0:

Screener decision on accommodations based on party report and clinical judgment

MASIC-S Scoring Form:

- Referral to DV advocate
- Whether or not to mediate
- If appropriate to mediate, format of mediation and other accommodations
- Final case evaluation after both parties are screened

Certification & Submission (odr.com/masic-s)

I certify:

I understand that Mediate.com/ODR.com will provide me with a link to a downloadable PDF version of the information I have inputted into this MASIC-S form once I have submitted this form to Mediate.com/ODR.com and made the required certification.

I certify:

I certify that no identifiable information has been inputted into this confidential MASIC-S form. I further certify that I have not inputted any actual case numbers into this form, and I have not included any case or personal identifying information about the case or the parties in the case, including names, birth dates, social security numbers, locations, and the like

I certify:

I understand that my ONLY opportunity to download the PDF version of this completed form will be after I click submit below and receive the link, and I will NOT be able to download the PDF after I leave the website. I also understand that once I download the PDF version of this form and leave the website, I will have the only copy of the information on this MASIC-S form.

Definition of Family Violence (Divorce Act)

- **family violence** means any conduct, whether or not the conduct constitutes a criminal offence, by a family member towards another family member, that is violent or threatening or that constitutes a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour or that causes that other family member to fear for their own safety or for that of another person — and in the case of a child, the direct or indirect exposure to such conduct — and includes
 - **(a)** physical abuse, including forced confinement but excluding the use of reasonable force to protect themselves or another person;
 - **(b)** sexual abuse;
 - **(c)** threats to kill or cause bodily harm to any person;
 - **(d)** harassment, including stalking;
 - **(e)** the failure to provide the necessaries of life;
 - **(f)** psychological abuse;
 - **(g)** financial abuse;
 - **(h)** threats to kill or harm an animal or damage property; and
 - **(i)** the killing or harming of an animal or the damaging of property

Best interests of the child (Divorce Act)

Factors relating to family violence:

16(4) In considering the impact of any family violence under paragraph (3)(j), the court shall take the following into account:

- (a)** the nature, seriousness and frequency of the family violence and when it occurred;
- (b)** whether there is a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour in relation to a family member;
- (c)** whether the family violence is directed toward the child or whether the child is directly or indirectly exposed to the family violence;
- (d)** the physical, emotional and psychological harm or risk of harm to the child;
- (e)** any compromise to the safety of the child or other family member;
- (f)** whether the family violence causes the child or other family member to fear for their own safety or for that of another person;
- (g)** any steps taken by the person engaging in the family violence to prevent further family violence from occurring and improve their ability to care for and meet the needs of the child; and
- (h)** any other relevant factor.

Ontario Mediators and the MASIC

All Ontario courts provide free 'on-site' family mediation via Family Law Information Centres

A list of service providers can be found on the website of the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG)
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/family-mediation-service-providers>

Mediators must meet strict criteria for training in screening for FV and power imbalances (21 hours), be accredited by the Ontario Association of Family Mediation (OAFM) or equivalent and do annual updated training on FV.

Mediators must screen, must follow MAG's policy on screening and should use appropriate screening protocols and tools.

OAFM Policy on IPV and Power Imbalances

Prior to commencing mediation, the mediator must individually screen all participants for the presence or risk of family violence, abuse and/or power imbalance as defined above. in a face to face private and confidential initial interview. The purpose of the screening is to determine which modifications may be necessary to ensure a safe, effective process or whether the case is inappropriate for mediation.

Family Court Support Workers

In every FLIC, working closely with the on-site mediators, are family court support workers (FCSWs). These are trained experts in family violence who support survivors in the litigation system in a variety of ways including risk assessment, safety planning, and in some cases free legal advice and representation.

Information & Referral Coordinators

In every FLIC there is an IRC whose job is to support litigants and the public with information about family violence, legal resources, court procedures, community resources and family mediation. IRCs work closely with the mediators and the family court support workers.

Judges May Order Parties to Intake

Under the Family Law Rules 17(8)(b)(iii) a judge may order parties to an intake meeting with a court-affiliated mediation service

Mediation is otherwise voluntary. Even with recent language in the Divorce Act to the effect that judges may make an order for mediation, parties cannot be compelled to mediate if they have been screened out by the mediator at the intake meeting.

Toronto Family Mediation Services

Provides court-connected mediation in three Toronto family courts

Has a roster of experienced mediators trained in screening and who speak a range of languages

Well-connected with the FCSW, local shelters and resources

IRCs are also well-trained in screening for FV skills and tools

Safety planning is the focus of much of our work at intake

All mediators use the MASIC-s

Invaluable short-form tool for assessing risk

We also use the idetermine tool
<https://www.idetermine.ca>

For more
information:

Visit Toronto Family
Mediation Services
(mediate393 inc)

<https://www.mediate393.ca>



THANKYOU!