



ICSD2015 Pre-Conference Workshop 1

Mediation of Family and Community Conflicts: Principles and Strategies for Effective Peacemaking

7 July 2015, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Synopsis:

For most of us, conflict is seen as something negative and to be avoided, yet conflict is a constant part of life. This seminar will set forth the idea that conflict is an opportunity in the life of the family and the community for positive change and growth, provided the conflict is managed in a constructive manner using constructive principles and strategies. These strategies encompass techniques used to create a future focus, to move the discussions from right/wrong battles, to ask different questions that create cooperation rather than create competition. In addition, effective peacemaking requires those in conflict to imagine a relationship with their adversary that nurtures a mutual attitude, a desire to attack the problem rather than the person, and finally resulting in creative and lasting outcomes that are owned and carried out by those in the conflict. The seminar will provide concrete examples of how to achieve such “utopian and idealistic” goals.

Fee: free for conference delegates

Speaker Profile:



STEPHEN K. ERICKSON, JD, Mediator is a licensed attorney who works exclusively a mediator. Since 1977, he has mediated over 5,000 disputes in his private practice and trained thousands of new mediators in the US, Canada, England and the Netherlands. He received the Bush Leadership Fellowship Award for the study of mediation in 1979 and is a founder and second president of the Academy of Family Mediators. He is well known as a mediation trainer and speaker, and has published numerous articles and books on the subject. Steve has taught as an adjunct professor at the William Mitchell College of Law and was appointed to the faculty at Augsburg College, where he teaches a course in the Master of Arts in Leadership Program. In May, 2011, he was given the Distinguished Mediator Award by the New York State Council on Divorce Mediation in recognition of his **“pioneering and sustained work in establishing the field of divorce mediation and their soulful dedication in helping families”** over the last 35 years.