

# Melissa Skarbek

Founder and Owner of Reunify Alaska

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## EXPERIENCE

### **Reunify Alaska — CEO**

JUNE 2022 - PRESENT

Conducting child custody investigations, parenting coordination, mediation services and independent consulting services for individuals and families.

### **The Office of Public Advocacy — Guardian ad Litem**

JANUARY 2021 - JUNE 2022

Advocating for the best interests of abused, neglected and abandoned children involved in dependency proceedings.

### **Fairbanks North Star School District — Long-term Substitute Teacher**

AUGUST 2019 - MARCH 2020

Assists the classroom teacher in implementing the program for students in accordance with the policies and philosophy of the school.

### **The Office of Children's Services — Protective Services Specialist II**

DECEMBER 2014 - APRIL 2019

Assessing allegations of child abuse and taking necessary steps to protect children. Collaborating with law enforcement, tribal staff, medical personnel and others who play a role in the assessment.

## EDUCATION

### **Arizona State University — Master of Social Work (MSW)**

APRIL 2021

GPA: 3.56

### **Western Michigan University — Liberal Arts with minors in Social Work, Business, Psychology, Sociology and Gender and Women's Studies**

JUNE 2015

GPA: 3.92

### **Southwestern Michigan College — Associates in Applied Science**

JUNE 2012

GPA: 3.87

## INTERNSHIPS

### **Bureau of Prisons — MSW Internship**

Perform initial intake/medical screening assessment upon arrival of each new inmate.

### **Fairbanks Youth Advocates — MSW Internship**

Develop treatment plans with special consideration to cross-cultural and dual diagnosis (mental health and substance abuse) concerns.

## PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

Nationally Certified Parenting Coordinator (NCPC)

Nationally Certified Custody Evaluator (NCCE)

Child Forensic Interviewing Certification ChildFirst Alaska

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)

National Organization of Forensic Social Work (NOFSW)

Alaska Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (AK-AIMH)

## HARD AND SOFT SKILLS

Emotional intelligence and empathy

Active listening and communication skills

Critical-thinking and organizational skills

Advocacy and boundary setting abilities

Cultural competency and therapeutic milieu experience

Data Analysis and research modalities

## **WEBINARS, ONLINE AND IN-PERSON TRAININGS**

2020/2021

- Assessing Safety Beyond Removal: Family Time and Conditions for Return Home
- Family Time: Relationships and Reassurance
- Harm Reduction and Safety Planning with Substance Using Families
- Mental Health: In-Depth Applications for Child Welfare
- Trauma Informed Family Time Services

2018/2019

- Child Sexual Abuse: A Judicial Perspective
- Children with Disabilities: Challenges, Strategies and Resources
- Children's Advocacy Centers: A Model for Improving the System's Response to Child Abuse
- Children's Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Introduction
- Child Protection: Children's Rights in Theory and Practice
- Caring for Vulnerable Children
- Improving the Health of Women, Children and Adolescents
- Resilience in Children Exposed to Trauma, Disaster and War

2016/2017

- Understanding Substance Use Disorders, Treatment and Family Recovery: A Guide for Child Welfare Professionals
- ChildFirst Forensic Interviewing
- Abusive Head Trauma Evidence
- Best Practices in the Treatment of Abused Children and Their Families
- Burns in Pediatric Abuse

2014/2015

- Bonding and Attachment in Maltreated Children
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Awareness
- The Cost of Caring: Secondary Traumatic Stress and the Impact of Working with High-Risk Children and Families
- ICWA: Inquiry and Notice
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Substance Use Disorders
- Psychotropic Medication in Foster Care