

# MEDIATING FOR EXTRAORDINARY FAMILIES:

SPECIAL NEEDS, LGBTQIAA, AND EXTENDED FAMILIES



**Florida Dispute  
Resolution Center**

**Annual Conference**

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# AGENDA

1. Family Law Cases with Special Needs Children
2. Family Law Cases with LGBTQIAA Litigants
3. Family Law Cases Involving Extended Family Members
4. Your turn: Questions, Answers, Ideas, and Best Practices







# FAMILY LAW CASES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

# FAMILY LAW CASES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN



**“Child”** – person under the age of 18 or not otherwise emancipated under the law

**“Special Needs Child”** – A child who has been determined by a qualified expert to require assistance beyond what is required by similarly situated children in education, medical attention, emotional health, or behavior.



# FAMILY LAW CASES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN



**We all know**

- **Chapter 61, *Florida Statutes***
- **Chapter 742, *Florida Statutes***

***WHAT ELSE IS THERE?***



The background of the slide is a collage of various old, sepia-toned maps and documents. Some maps show detailed street grids, while others show topographical features like mountains and rivers. The documents appear to be historical records or legal papers, with some text visible but mostly illegible due to the age and angle. The overall aesthetic is that of a historical or archival collection.

# FAMILY LAW CASES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

1. IDEA / Section 504 Florida Statutes/Rules
2. Guardianship
3. Social Security
4. Dependency
5. Domestic Violence



“We don't see  
things as they  
are, we see  
them as we  
are.”

**Anais Nin**

HOW TO CULTIVATE  
UNDERSTANDING  
OF:

FAMILIES WITH  
SPECIAL NEEDS  
CHILDREN

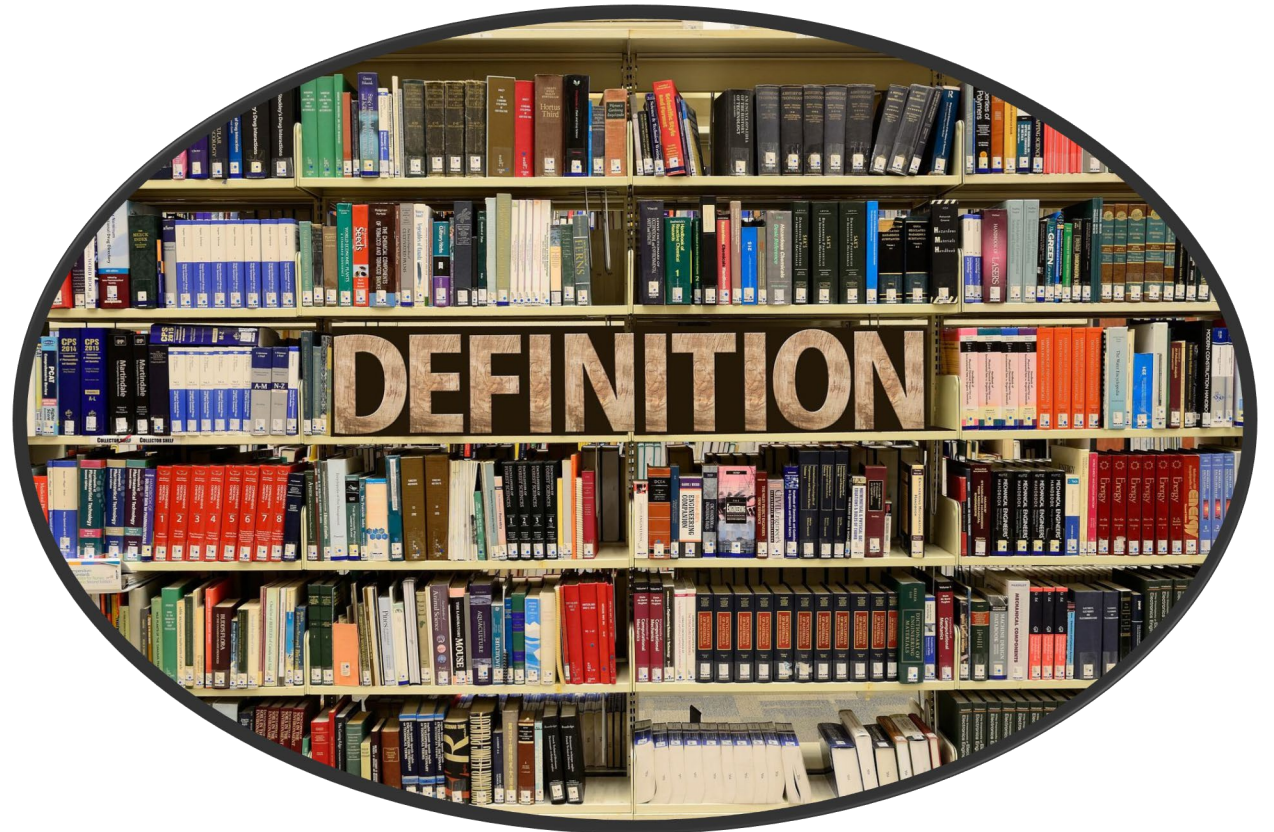
Three rainbow flags are shown waving on tall poles against a cloudy sky. The flags are positioned diagonally across the frame, from the bottom left towards the top right. A dark blue horizontal banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image, containing white text. Above the banner, there are three horizontal gold-colored bars of varying lengths.

# FAMILY LAW CASES WITH LGBTQIAA LITIGANTS



# FAMILY LAW CASES WITH LGBTQIAA LITIGANTS

L Lesbian  
G Gay  
B Bisexual  
T Transgender  
Q Questioning  
I Intersex  
A Asexual  
A Ally

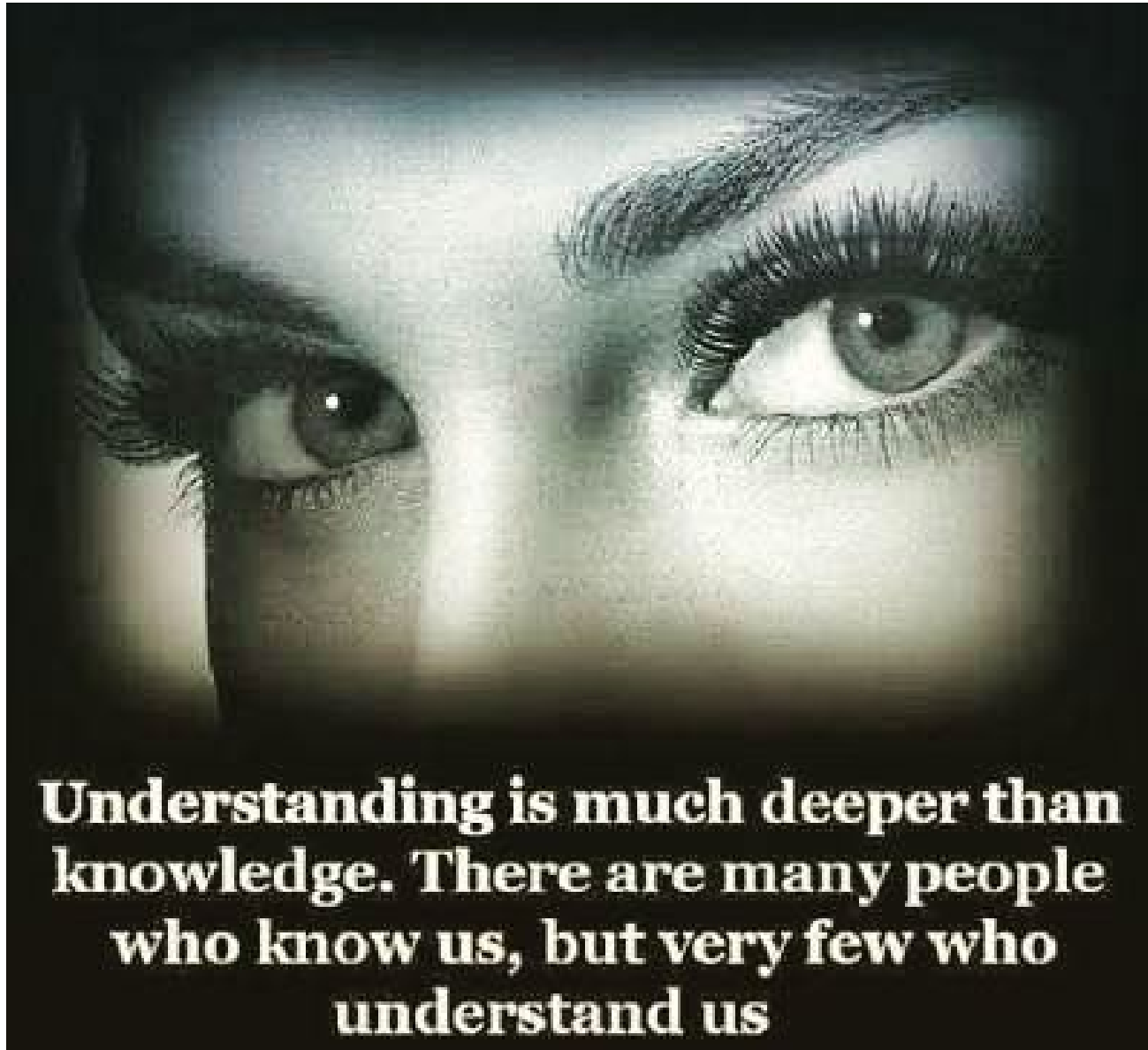


# FAMILY LAW CASES WITH LGBTQIAA LITIGANTS



1. Cohabitation Agreements
2. Real Estate Matters
3. Surrogacy, Adoption, and Parentage/Parental Rights
4. Interpersonal violence





**Understanding is much deeper than knowledge. There are many people who know us, but very few who understand us**

HOW TO CULTIVATE  
UNDERSTANDING OF:

FAMILIES WITH  
LGBTQIAA  
MEMBERS



## FAMILY LAW CASES INVOLVING EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS





WHAT IS AN “EXTENDED FAMILY”?



# FAMILY LAW CASES INVOLVING EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS

## Other relevant areas of law

1. Comity and Full Faith & Credit
2. Domestication of Foreign Judgments
3. Grandparent Visitation
4. Other areas of law





Sometimes being understanding is more important  
than being right...

Sometimes we need not a brilliant mind that speaks  
but a patient heart that listens...

Not a keen eyes that always see faults  
but open arms that accept...

Not a finger that points out mistakes  
but gentle hands that lead!

HOW TO CULTIVATE  
UNDERSTANDING  
OF:

EXTENDED  
FAMILIES



A large, green, leafy question mark stands on a small, sandy island in the middle of a deep blue ocean. The island is surrounded by water, and the sky is a clear, bright blue. There are several palm trees on the island, some to the left and some to the right of the question mark. The water is dark blue with some lighter patches near the island. The overall scene is serene and mysterious.

# Questions & Answers



# MEDIATING FOR EXTRAORDINARY FAMILIES:

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THANK  
YOU!



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