

Summary of Experience - Dr. Peter Sutton

Appointments and Activities

Dr. Sutton maintains a private practice in Child and Adult Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis. He also has an interest in medico-legal consultation and custody and access problems.

Dr. Sutton has had a major part-time position in the Department of Psychiatry of the Hospital for Sick Children, in which he has been the Head of the Infant Psychiatry Program from 1986 - 1995. He has been a staff psychiatrist within the Department of Psychiatry from 1984 to 2007, and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry in the Faculty of Medicine since 1992. He was also a member of the Custody Project of the University of Toronto. He is a member of the Faculty of the Toronto Child Psychotherapy Program and of the Toronto and Ottawa Institutes of Psychoanalysis.

He has professional interests in infant and child development, parenting, parent-infant and parent-child relationships, and their disturbances. He has written and presented at national and international conferences concerning problems in infancy, infant development, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, parenting problems, parental grief after the loss of a baby, and custody and access issues. He is the co-founder of the Infant Mental Health Promotion Project of Metropolitan Toronto (IMP), a major initiative to improve service to infants and parents within Metropolitan Toronto, and was for many years the Chairman of IMP's Education Committee. He has taught courses on infant and preschool development, infant psychiatry, and developmental and psychoanalytic theory to a number of audiences. He has been asked to present at continuing legal education events on high conflict separation and divorce and custody and access problems.

Education

Dr. Sutton graduated from the University of Cambridge in England in 1969 with a degree in Experimental Psychology. He completed his medical training at Oxford University, England in 1972 and his psychiatric and child psychiatric training at the University of Toronto in 1984. He is a licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada. He has a Diploma in Psychiatry and a Diploma in Child Psychiatry from the University of Toronto. He holds a fellowship in the specialty of psychiatry from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He has completed training both in intensive psychoanalytic psychotherapy of children and in psychoanalysis, and is a member of the Toronto Psychoanalytic Society and the Canadian Association of Psychoanalytic Therapists for Children, and of a number of learned associations.

Court and Legal Related Experience

Dr. Sutton has acted as a consultant to the child welfare agencies of Toronto, and other cities in Ontario, in providing assessment, written opinion and direct testimony. He has been involved in many cases of separated and divorced parents in which custody and access were problematic, including cases in which he was consulted concerning psychopathology in the child, cases in which he was involved in mediation, and cases in which he was retained by counsel to provide a formal assessment for court purposes. Some of these cases have involved extensive report writing, and/or appearance to give evidence in court. In a number of these cases there have been allegations of sexual abuse.

Dr. Sutton has also been involved in a number of cases of post-traumatic stress disorder which involved litigation or involvement with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. He has been retained by counsel to provide formal assessments of the psychological consequences of accident or injury, disability resulting from various causes, and of death of a parent or sibling, and the extent to which these may be distinguished from symptoms attributable to pre-existing psychopathology.

Dr. Sutton has been retained by counsel in cases of allegations of sexual abuse to provide psychiatric consultation concerning evidence for the defence and for the prosecution.