

DORIS SISK

INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORKER

+44 (0)7771631711

doris@siskconsulting.co.uk

Master's Level Clinical Social Worker skilled in child and family assessments, including parenting, siblings, SGO and adoptions. Particular expertise in working with issues of domestic violence, poor health and disability, mental health issues, substance misuse, and young parents. Trained facilitator for the Freedom Programme. Expert witness in court proceedings.

Education

Master of Social Work/1987

George Warren Brown School of Social Work

Washington University, St Louis, Missouri (USA)

Specialisations: Health Care; Family Therapy

Bachelor of Arts/1979

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado (USA)

Music Therapy

Experience

Sisk Social Work Consulting

Director/ISW

September 2012 – present

Expert witness and Independent Social work services to the Court as well as to Local Authorities, providing parenting, kinship, adoption and SGO assessments. Clinical reflective supervision of social workers provided, as well.

Private law work undertaken.

Trained Freedom Programme facilitator.

Surrey County Council (agency staff)

Independent Chair

December 2020 – 10 November 2022

Responsible for reviewing care plans of looked after children. I worked with children, parents, carers, social workers, and other professionals to ensure the local authority met the child's needs whilst in care.

I worked with a high number of asylum-seeking young people as part of this work, as well as children who had been subjected to trafficking, abuse, neglect, poor mental health, substance misuse, criminality and violence.

Jamma Umoja

Service Manager

January 2020 – October 2020

Responsible for overall management of one of two residential assessment centres, including ensuring the quality of assessments and court reports and the welfare of the residents; budgeting, hiring, supervision of staff, and day-to-day operations.

Surrey County Council

Advanced Social Work Practitioner, Social Work Academy, part-time

October- December 2019

Supporting and assessing newly qualified social workers in their first year of practice.

Surrey County Council

Independent Reviewing Officer

March-October 2014 and

August 2015 to August 2019

Responsible for reviewing care plans of looked after children. I worked with children, parents, carers, social workers, and other professionals to ensure the local authority met the child's needs, whilst in care. I worked with a high number of asylum-seeking young people as part of this work, as well as children who had been subjected to trafficking, abuse, neglect, poor mental health, substance misuse, criminality and violence.

Medway Council

Consultant Social Work Practitioner

July – October 2013

Part of the Workforce Development Team supporting and assessing newly qualified social workers in their first year of employment. I also provided practice development and training for social workers and managers. I assisted with in-house audits, working closely with the Heads of Service and the Principle Social Worker.

London Borough of Croydon (agency staff)

Assistant Team Manager, Looked After Children

September 2012 – February 2013

Duties included management and supervision of seven social workers, court attendance, writing reports, risk assessment, meeting all statutory requirements for looked after children.

Jamma Umoja

Manager of Community Services

July 2010 – September 2012

In this role I managed and developed the team (social workers and family support workers, as well as volunteers) performing parenting assessments in the community. I completed assessments and provided reports to the Court as an expert witness. I provided direct individual and group work to family members whilst they were under assessment.

London Borough of Croydon

Team Leader/Acting Practice Manager/Senior Social Worker

August 2007 – July 2010

I began work for Croydon as a social worker on the hospital team at Croydon University Hospital, completing assessments when child abuse or neglect was suspected. I was also the adoption worker for relinquished babies, completing statutory reports for this process. I then moved into management and supervised up to six social workers and administrative staff, eventually becoming responsible for the overall management of the team, including allocation of caseloads, financial oversight and budgetary responsibilities, hiring and disciplinary action. I chaired professional meetings. I prioritised and managed risk.

University Physicians, Tucson, Arizona, USA

Clinical Social Worker, Pediatrics and OB/GYN

September 1997 – May 2007

I provided assessment of need of children, pregnant women and families in two out-patient medical clinics. Analysis of risk and referrals to child protection teams and other resources as needed. Case management duties performed alongside nurses and physicians. I was a field instructor for social work students as well as for resident physicians and student nurses. I developed and implemented a tool used in the pediatric clinic to detect domestic violence in the home. I published articles in professional journals.

University College of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Tucson, AZ

Clinical Lecturer and Adjunct Faculty

August 2002- June 2007

My duties included one-to-one direct training and advisement for medical students as well as resident physicians. Lectures and course work provided. Research and publication.

Tu Nidito Children's Hospice, Tucson, Arizona, USA

Director of Social Work and Bereavement Services

May 1996 – August 1997

I developed the social work service for a new in-home pediatric hospice programme. Assessment completed on the needs of dying children and their families. Liaison with medical staff and insurance companies. I developed and operated a bereavement programme providing grief counselling as well as group work.

University Medical Center, Tucson, Arizona, USA

Pediatric Medical Social Worker

December 1989 – May 1996

In this role I assessed the needs of hospitalised children and their families in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the Pediatric Wards, and Labour and Delivery Wards. Liaison with medical staff and community organisations. Child protection assessment and referrals. Supervision of students and staff.

St Louis Children's Hospital, St Louis, Missouri, USA

Pediatric medical Social Worker

1987-1989

I provided support, assessment and referrals to children and families admitted to hospital under the Renal, as well as the Diabetes teams.

Registration/Membership

Registered with Social Work England

Member of NAGALRO and BASW

Publications

Freeman MP, Wright R, Watchman M, Wahl RA, Sisk DJ, Fraleigh L, Weibrecht JM.

Postpartum depression assessments at well-baby visits: Screening feasibility, prevalence and risk factors. *J of Women's Health*. 2005; 10(14); 929-935.

Wahl RA, Sisk DJ, Ball TM. Clinic-based screening for domestic violence; use of a child safety questionnaire. *BMC Medicine*. 2004; 2:25 (30 June 2004).

Sisk DJ. What Melissa and her family taught us. *Hospice*. 1998; 16-17.

Manthei DJ (now Sisk), Pierce RL, Rothbaum RJ, Manthei U, Keating JP. Munchausen syndrome by proxy: Covert child abuse. *J of Family Violence*. 1988; 3: 131-140.