

**Met Chapter
Couples and Family Practice Committee**

Presenter: Deborah Rubin, LCSW, PhD

**SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS AND DIVORCE:
CLINICAL, LEGAL, AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN CONSIDERING THE NEEDS
OF THE WHOLE FAMILY**

DATE: Friday, February 23, 2018

TIME: 12pm – 1:30pm

LOCATION: 211 West 56th St., Suite 30H

For our next meeting, on February 23, Deborah Rubin will present a complicated family situation that involves issues of clinical treatment; the roles of mediation and collaborative law in divorce; and the dilemmas posed by divorce when one patient is seriously mentally ill. The presentation might take 1/2 hour and will be followed by discussion. There will probably be time for another issue or case to be discussed, too.

While mediation and collaborative law offer ideal ways of handling many divorces, a problem arises when one partner in the marriage is too mentally ill to fully participate in the process and when even the attorneys are not sure what to do. In this case, the therapist has been providing individual therapy to the wife, but attempting to hold in mind the needs of the mentally ill husband and the children. The wife's fluctuating emotions--empathy towards her husband's illness but also rage at the harm he has wreaked on the family and reluctance to be responsible for him for life--have influenced the legal processes in complex ways and may result in an unexpected, perhaps undesirable outcome of the legal case.

Please RSVP to the Committee Chair, Dana Greco LCSW-R

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