

Elissa Madden

Associate Professor at Baylor University

Waco, TX, US

Research: child welfare, foster care, adoption (public & private), child & family mental health, service learning in social work education

Biography

Elissa Madden, Ph.D., associate professor, joined the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work in August 2016 after previously serving as an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Arlington. Her primary research interest is in child welfare, with a particular focus on ways to promote permanency for children in foster care. Dr. Madden is a former child welfare conservatorship worker with Child Protective Services (CPS) in Texas. She is a licensed social worker and has extensive experience working with children and families in a variety of practice settings. Prior to working at CPS, she served as a project director for a transitional housing program and as a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) social worker at a local hospital. Dr. Madden has co-authored publications regarding the need to increase adoptions from the public child welfare system and child welfare workforce issues and has presented numerous times at national child welfare and social work conferences regarding various child welfare topics, including post adoption services, the retention of child welfare workers, wraparound child welfare services, and openness in adoption. Additionally, Dr. Madden currently serves as the Assistant Editor of Adoption Quarterly, a peer-reviewed international, multidisciplinary journal that addresses continuity in adoption issues. Dr. Madden was awarded a grant through the Donaldson Adoption Institute to complete a study to better understand the decision-making experiences of women and men who have placed a child for adoption, as well as the context in which options are discussed with expectant mothers and fathers by professionals in the adoption community.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Research, Social Services, Childcare

Areas of Expertise

Service Learning, Adoption Research, Child and Family Services, Foster Care and Adoptions, Child Welfare, Adoption Services, Mental Health, Social Work Education

Education

The University of Texas at Austin

Ph.D. Social Work

Baylor University

M.S.W. Social Work

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