

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR SARASOTA/MANATEE/DESOTO COUNTIES, FLORIDA

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 93-1 A

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER WAS
RENUMBERED BY ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER NUMBER 2001-14-2.
THE NEW NUMBER IS
93-1A-12

SEMINAR FOR DIVORCING PARENTS

Because dissolution of marriage has long-term impact on the best interest and emotional development of children, the Court hereby implements criteria for a seminar for divorcing parents:

CRITERIA FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A SEMINAR FOR DIVORCING PARENTS

PURPOSES

The principal purpose of the seminar will be to educate parents regarding the emotional impact on minor children of the dissolution of the parents' marriage.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the program will be:

1. Recognition and understanding stages of development and childhood issues as they relate to, and typical reactions of children, to dissolution of their parent's marriages.
2. Identification of common needs of, and stressors on, children in the dissolution of marriages context.
3. Development and integration of responses, skills and techniques for dealing with children's issues and reactions.
4. Recognition and understanding of family needs that may require further services.
5. Identification of community resources and services that are available to satisfy specific family needs.

REQUIRED PARTICIPANTS

Attendance will be required of all parties who have minor children. At the discretion of the Court, parties to other types of cases, i.e. paternity, separate maintenance, dependency, post

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JAN 28 1993
CLERK OF COURT
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

judgment modification proceedings, may be required to attend.

For good cause shown, the court may waive attendance at the seminar.

Parties ordered to attend the seminar shall enroll within thirty (30) days from the date service of process on the responding party is accomplished.

INSTRUCTORS

Instructors shall be persons who are certified or licensed by the State of Florida in the fields of education or mental health; or employed by a college or university accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; or employed by a fully accredited community mental health agency.

Mental health professionals who serve as instructors, or are affiliated with entities which provide seminars, and such entities with which they are affiliated, shall be prohibited from rendering counseling or therapy to participants and/or their families during the pendency of the proceedings resulting in referral.

SEMINAR AND CONTENT

The seminar shall be a four hour course focusing on topics which shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:

1. The divorce process.
2. Stages of child development.
3. How children react to divorce.
4. Adjustment and development needs, of children.
5. Skills and techniques for helping children adjust.
6. Identification of problems that may require treatment or services beyond the seminar and identification of community resources available to assist in dealing with these problems.

Cost to participate shall not exceed \$35.00 per person. The cost may be waived at the discretion of the court if financial hardship would result to a participant. Each provider shall be required to enroll indigent participants in numbers constituting ten percent (10%) of each class.

Presentation shall be at the discretion of the instructor; however, a significant time shall be allotted for participation by individual members of each group. All members of each group shall be encouraged to ask questions, make comments, and share ideas and experiences. Group size shall be structured to facilitate broad participation by the individual members of the group and should not exceed thirty (30) participants.

Each participant should receive a handbook/workbook which is designed to assist them in identifying specific problems within their own family unit and in formulating appropriate responses and techniques for effectively dealing with those problems. The handbook should also contain sufficient bibliography to enable participants to refer to locally available literature and materials which may assist them in identifying and resolve problems of children in divorce beyond completion of the seminar.

MECHANICS OF REFERRAL

The petitioning party shall complete and file with the Clerk of Court a questionnaire reference the minor children of the parties. The Clerk of Court shall send a copy of the questionnaire to the judge assigned to the case, who will generate an Order of Referral. The Order will be served on both parties upon determination that service of process on the respondent has been

accomplished.

CERTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE AND COMPLETION


Upon completion of the seminar by a party, the provider will complete and return to the court a certification of the party's attendance and completion.

EVALUATION

Each participant will be provided a written evaluation of the seminar at its conclusion. These will be completed by the participants and a copy returned to the court by the provider together with the certificate of completion.

The effective date of this Administrative Order shall be January 1, 1993.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Sarasota, Sarasota County, Florida this 26 day of January, 1993.


STEPHEN L. DAKAN, Chief Judge
Twelfth Judicial Circuit
State of Florida

FILED FOR RECORD
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR SARASOTA/MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Jan 8 2 09 PM '92

KAREN E. RICHMOND
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
SARASOTA COUNTY, FL

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The effective date of this Administrative Order shall be January 1, 1993.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Sarasota, Sarasota County, Florida this 7 day of January, 1993.


STEPHEN L. DAKAN, Chief Judge
Twelfth Judicial Circuit
State of Florida