



Superior Court  
Of Snohomish County

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 05-06  
PARENTING SEMINAR STANDARDS

August 15, 2003

The Snohomish County Superior Court hereby adopts the following standards for parenting seminars:

- A. **Parenting Seminars.** Where required by local court rule or by court order, parties shall participate in, and successfully complete, an approved parenting seminar within 60 days after service of a petition or initiating motion on the respondent.
- B. **Provider Agencies.** Approved Parenting Seminars shall be those offered by one or more counseling agencies on contract with the Court. Parties may use equivalent services offered by private agencies or religious organizations, upon approval of the Court.
- C. **Fees.** Each parent attending a seminar shall pay a fee charged by the approved provider agency. The seminar shall be conducted at no cost to the Court.
- D. **Seminar Content.** The seminar content will be approved by the Court, and shall include, at a minimum: (1) the developmental stages of childhood; (2) stress indicators in children; (3) age appropriate expectations of children; (4) the impact of divorce on children; (5) the grief process; (6) reducing stress for children through an amicable divorce; (7) the long term impact of parental conflict on children; (8) visitation recommendations to enhance the child's relationship with both parents; (9) financial obligations of child rearing; (10) conflict management and dispute

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resolution; (11) communication skills for divorced parent; (12) practical skills for working together; and (13) the impact on children when stepparents and blended families enter their lives.

- E. **Qualification of Instructors.** A team of not less than two instructors, including one male and one female, will conduct parenting seminars. Instructors shall have the following minimum credentials and experience:
1. a master's degree in social work, psychology or other related behavioral science;
  2. supervised experience in treatment of emotionally disturbed children, adolescents and their families;
  3. experience in providing a wide range of mental health services to children and families, with specific experience in the areas of separation/divorce, loss and grief, and blended families;
  4. extensive knowledge of child development, age appropriate expectations for children, and positive parenting;
  5. experience in group treatment and/or facilitating classes and seminars;
  6. an ability to work with other agencies as part of a collaborative program; and
  7. strong oral communication skills.

When parties choose to use agencies or religious organizations which are not on contract with the County, the Court may modify or waive the foregoing qualifications for the instructors upon a showing of other indicia of competence and experience.

- F. **Referral for Other Services.** During the seminar, referral resources will be made available to the parents, and their children, including individual and family counseling, drug/alcohol counseling, anger management counseling, parenting classes, mediation, etc. These services are optional, and the parties must seek their own funding resources.

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Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013

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Michael T. Downes, Presiding Judge

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Administrative Order Parenting Seminar Standards 05-06 no change in content – just renumbered;  
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