

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CLAYTON COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

JAN 28 2011

CLERK SUPERIOR COURT  
CLAYTON COUNTY, GEORGIASTANDING ORDER OF CLAYTON COUNTY JUDICIAL CIRCUITIN RE: PARENTING SEMINAR  
HELPING CHILDREN COPE WITH CHANGE

Pursuant to the inherent powers of the Superior Court of Clayton County, and Rules 1.2 and 24.8, Uniform Rules of the Superior Court and with the intent to continue the implementation of the program established on November 30, 1993, with the entering into an agreement with Families First, Inc. to provide an educational program for parties in domestic relations actions

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

THAT all parties in all actions for divorce, separate maintenance, legitimation, paternity, contested modification of custody, and contested modification of visitation filed on or after the first day of January, 1994, where children under the age of 18 years are involved shall successfully complete the seminar, unless a waiver is obtained. The failure to successfully complete the seminar shall be cause for action by the assigned judge including, but not limited to, withholding the final decree of divorce, attachment for contempt, and award of attorneys' fees and costs. The assigned judge may, as a discretionary matter, grant a final decree of divorce before the completion of the seminar, but shall retain authority to impose sanctions upon either party who fails or refuses to comply with the order to attend and complete the seminar.

The assigned judge shall retain discretion to waive attendance for good cause shown. Such good cause may include: a party's non-residence in Georgia or in a county in which the action is pending, or the reasonable availability of a similar program to the party or other such reasonable availability of a similar program to the party or other such reasonable causes which indicate to the Court that a party should not be required to complete the program. The court may, in its discretion, accept alternative counseling covering the subject matter of the required seminar. The Court Administrator will determine which of the various courts in other jurisdictions have established a seminar similar to the Clayton County seminar. The assigned judge may allow a party to attend an appropriate out of county seminar as a substitute for attending the seminar in Clayton County.

The program will be administered by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office, under the Office of the Court Administrator. All receipts of fees shall be promptly deposited into a special fund (270), administered through Clayton County Finance Department. This account is subject to audit by Clayton County, as are county accounts. The undersigned will be furnished a summary of receipts and expenditures in the previous quarter on Jan. 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 of each year. Expenditures from the account will be authorized by the Chief Superior Court

Judge or their designee, or in the absence of the Chief Judge, by any one of the undersigned, by formal request to the Clayton County Finance Department for disbursement of said fund.

Information concerning seminars will be furnished by the office of the Clerk of Superior Court and by the Office of the Court Administrator through the ADR Office. The Clerk's office shall inform parties of their responsibility to attend a seminar upon the filing of the pleadings. Attorneys practicing in the Clayton Judicial Circuit should provide information concerning the seminar, the mandatory requirement of the seminar and the cost of same when giving advice to clients involved in an action covered by this order.

The administrator of the parenting seminar program shall ensure that there is security at all seminar locations from one-half hour before the beginning of a seminar until all participants have departed the premises, including the parking lot. The fund shall be used to pay for off-duty police or sheriff department personnel to provide for this security.

SO ORDERED this 25 day of JANUARY, 2011

Deborah C. Benefield  
Chief Judge, Superior Court  
Clayton Judicial Circuit

Matthew O. Simmons  
Judge, Superior Court  
Clayton Judicial Circuit

Albert B. Collier  
Judge, Superior Court  
Clayton Judicial Circuit

Geronda V. Carter  
Judge, Superior Court  
Clayton Judicial Circuit

*This form conforms with the original on file in the Clayton County Superior Court Clerk's office which contains all of the judges' original signatures.*