

IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 5.05

PARENT EDUCATION AND FAMILY STABILIZATION COURSE

In order to provide for the requirements of the Eighth Judicial Circuit for Parent Education and Family Stabilization Course; and

WHEREAS, §61.21, Fla. Stat. (2010), mandates attendance at a Parent Education and Family Stabilization Course by all parties to a dissolution of marriage proceeding with minor children or a paternity action that involves issues of parental responsibility; It is therefore

ORDERED that:

1. The parenting course shall be a minimum of 4 hours in duration and may include, but need not be limited to, the following topics:
 - a. Legal aspects of deciding child-related issues between parents
 - b. Emotional aspects of separation and divorce on adults
 - c. Emotional aspects of separation and divorce on children
 - d. Family relationships and family dynamics
 - e. Financial responsibilities of a child or children
 - f. Issues regarding spousal or child abuse and neglect
 - g. Skill-based relationship education

2. Each parenting course provider must be approved by the Department of Children and Family Services. The Department will give a list of providers to each circuit including at least one site where the course can be provided on a sliding fee scale, if available. In addition, there shall be at least one statewide correspondence course and one statewide internet course. The purpose of the internet and correspondence courses is to ensure that the parent education and stabilization course is available in the home county of each state resident and to those out-of-state persons subject to this section. The court will provide the Clerk of Court with information regarding all course providers approved for the circuit. The Clerk shall provide this information to parties in

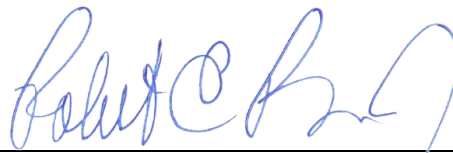
family law cases involving children.

3. For dissolution actions, all petitioners required to complete the parenting course must do so within 45 days after filing the petition and all other parties must complete the course within 45 days after service of the petition.
4. For paternity actions, petitioners must complete the course within 45 days after filing the petition and all other parties must complete the course within 45 days after an acknowledgment of paternity by that party, an adjudication of paternity of that party, or an order granting visitation to or support from that party.
5. All parties to a modification of a final judgment involving shared parental responsibilities, custody, or visitation may be required to complete a court-approved parenting course prior to the entry of an order modifying the final judgment.
6. All parties shall file proof of compliance with the court prior to the entry of the final judgment.
7. The court may excuse a party from attending the parenting course, or from completing the course within the required time, for good cause.
8. The court may hold any parent who fails to attend a required parenting course in contempt, or that parent may be denied shared parental responsibility or visitation or otherwise sanctioned as the court deems appropriate.

This order replaces Administrative Order 5.1120(E), "Parent Education and Family Stabilization Course," dated November 16, 2006.

This order renumbers and reformats prior Administrative Order No. 5.1120(F) entitled "Parent Education and Family Stabilization Course."

ORDERED ON this 5th day of October, 2012 *nunc pro tunc* September 10, 2010.



Robert E. Roundtree, Jr., Chief Judge