

E-FILED

DISTRICT COURT, WELD COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO
Court Address: 901 9th Avenue, Greeley, Colorado
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FILED IN
DISTRICT COURT
OCT 26 '04
WELD COUNTY, COLO.

J

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 04-03

▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲

Case No. 04 CV01

Division: 1

**AMENDED ORDER REGARDING MANDATORY EDUCATION CLASSES FOR PARENTS
SEEKING DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, ALLOCATION OF PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES OR
CHILD CUSTODY**

In the best interests of parents and children involved in proceedings involving parental rights and responsibilities and child custody, the court FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

1. C.R.S. 14-10-104.5 provides in pertinent part that “one of the underlying purposes of this article is to mitigate the potential harm to the spouses and their children and the relationships between the parents and their children caused by the process of legal dissolution of marriage. The general assembly recognizes that when . . . children are involved . . . both parties either agree to or are subject to orders which contain certain obligations and commitments.”
2. Allowing children to have meaningful relationships with their parents that are not hampered by conflict between the parents allows them to become healthy and productive adults. Failure to allow children to enjoy such relationships places children at great risk of serious dysfunction as they grow up and when they become adults.
3. Most parents shudder at the thought that their actions might cause harm to their children. The parents may be getting along well with each other. Other parents may believe that they bear no responsibility for the conflict that affects their children. Through an educational program, however, each of these parties may identify behaviors that they thought were harmless but which in fact have a harmful effect on their children.
4. Educational programs are available in Weld County and throughout the State of Colorado that are designed to help parents understand how their relationship with the other parent affects their children. All parents involved in cases where parental responsibilities are allocated or custody is to be decided, whether contested or not, can benefit from completion of such a program.
5. In order to mitigate the potential harm to children caused when parties dissolve their marriage, seek to allocate parental responsibilities, move to modify a previous custody order, or seek allocation of parental responsibilities pursuant to C.R.S. 14-10-123 or in an action brought under Title 19 or Title 26, all parties to such actions should be required to complete a qualifying educational class to help parents understand and develop strategies to deal with the impact of their separation on their children.

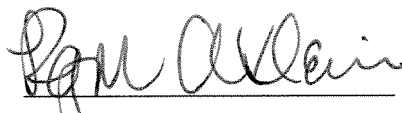
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED as follows:

1. Within sixty (60) days of
 - a. The filing of a case;
 - b. Service on the respondent of a summons; or
 - c. The filing of a motion dealing with the allocation of parental responsibility or child custody;

all parties are required to complete a qualifying educational class **and** file proof of completion.

2. To make sure that all parties have notice of the requirement of paragraph one of this order, the person filing the case or the motion is required to serve a copy of this order with the motion, summons or petition that is served on the other party.
3. Any party wishing to set a permanent orders hearing may do so only after showing proof that he or she has completed the class.
4. If the other party has not completed the class as required, the party setting the hearing should notify the clerk at the time of the setting.
5. The failure of any party to complete the class will subject that party to contempt or other appropriate sanctions. The failure to complete the class may be considered, along with other evidence, in determining whether that party is able to encourage the sharing of love, affection and contact between the child and the other parent. This finding may affect whether that parent should be allocated parental responsibilities or custody.
6. Exemption from this order shall be by court order only.
7. This order is issued pursuant to Chief Justice Directive 95-01 and supplants the orders previously entered on this subject.

Dated: October 26, 2004



Roger A. Klein

Chief Judge

19th Judicial District