

IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF
CHATTAHOOCHEE, HARRIS, MARION, MUSCOGEE, TALBOT AND TAYLOR COUNTIES
STATE OF GEORGIA

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PIERCE
MUSCOGEE COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT

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Ex Parte No. 16-27

STANDING ORDER ON PARENTING SEMINARS

This Order revokes and replaces all previous orders and notices regarding Seminars for Divorcing Parents approved for use in domestic cases filed in the Superior Courts of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit. Pursuant to the inherent powers of these Courts, Uniform Superior Court Rule 24.8, and in the interest of providing for the speedy, efficient, and inexpensive resolution of disputes, it is hereby ordered that:

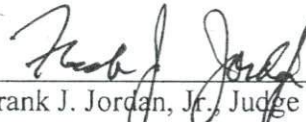
1. All parties involved in any divorce, separate maintenance, legitimation, or any other domestic relations action that involves an initial determination or modification of child custody are required to successfully complete a court-approved, certificate-bearing, parenting seminar. Failure to complete the seminar within the time period set forth in this Order may subject a party to contempt or other sanctions, which may include suspension of visitation or custody rights.
2. A listing of all court-approved seminar providers authorized under this Order is attached hereto as Exhibit "A." A copy of this Order and the attached Exhibit "A" shall be made available to filing parties, or their counsel, by the Clerk of Superior Court of the county in which the action is filed.
3. The filing party, or his or her counsel, shall serve a copy of this Order and the attached listing of all court-approved seminar providers upon each adverse party along with the underlying domestic pleading and summons.
4. Each party must successfully complete a court-approved seminar within 31 days of service of the original complaint upon the defendant and the certificate must be filed with the Clerk of Superior Court before finalization.
5. A party may petition the Court to accept a certificate of completion from a parenting seminar that is not on the court-approved list by providing written verification that the seminar meets the following minimum requirements:
 - a. Three contact hours;
 - b. Focus on developmental needs of children;
 - c. Emphasis on fostering a child's emotional health during periods of stress;
 - d. Topics covered must include the developmental stages of childhood; reactions of children to divorce both generally and at specific ages; how divorce affects families; grief processes and coping skills; roles of divorced parents; co-parenting skills; financial obligations of parents; and mediation as a tool to resolve domestic disputes; and
 - e. Verification of successful completion of the seminar.

6. The parties may attend a seminar on different dates. In those cases where there have been allegations of domestic violence the parties must attend seminars on different dates.
7. Certificates of completion are valid for three years.
8. Parties are responsible for paying their own registration fees for the seminar. Fees are to be paid directly to the seminar provider. In cases where the registration fee presents a financial hardship, the Court may waive or reduce the fee if the party properly petitions the court; presents evidence of indigency to include a verified affidavit of poverty; and the Court finds the party meets its indigency guidelines.
9. For good cause shown, the assigned judge may waive the parenting seminar requirement, extend the time period for its completion, or require its repetition.
10. Failure to comply with this Order may subject a party to contempt or other sanctions as the assigned judge may deem appropriate.

SO ORDERED, this 12th day of July, 2016, *nunc pro tunc* January 1, 2016.



Bemon G. McBride, III, Chief Judge
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



Frank J. Jordan, Jr., Judge
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit




Bobby G. Peters, Judge
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



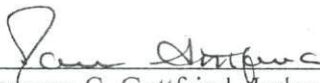
William C. Rumer, Judge
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



Arthur L. Smith, III, Judge
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



J. Ronald Mullins, Jr., Judge
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



Maureen C. Gottfried, Judge
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit

EXHIBIT "A"

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STATE OF GEORGIA

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COURT-APPROVED PARENTING SEMINAR PROVIDERS

The Family Center, Inc.
1350 15th Avenue
Columbus, GA 31902
(706) 327-3238

The Pastoral Institute
2022 15th Avenue
Columbus, GA 31901
(706) 649-6500

Project Rebound, Inc.
1130 Brown Avenue
Columbus, GA 31906
(706) 221-4830

Grandison Counseling and Healing Services
233 12th Street, Suite 745
Columbus, GA 31901
(706) 940-0819

Family Advocacy Program
6600 Van Aalst Blvd.
Ft. Benning, GA 31905
(762) 408-4076

Family Counseling Center of Georgia, Inc.
277 MLK Jr. Boulevard West, Suite 203
Macon, GA 31201
(478) 745-2811

Epiphany Guidance Treatment and
Counseling Service
3555 Mercer University Drive
Macon, GA 31204
(478) 471-2111

Middle Flint Behavioral Health
415 North Jackson Street
Americus, GA 31709
(229) 931-2504

Vision Foundation Counseling Center, Inc.
1216 Whispering Pines Road
Albany, GA 31707
(229) 435-1729