

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO: 07-98-37-01

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND
FOR ORANGE & OSCEOLA
COUNTIES, FLORIDA

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER PERTAINING TO MANDATORY
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR ALL PARTIES IN DISSOLUTION ACTIONS
WHICH INCLUDE MINOR CHILDREN OR PATERNITY ACTIONS INVOLVING
ISSUES OF PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY IN ORANGE AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 61.21, Florida Statutes, parenting courses are mandated for all parties in dissolution of marriage proceedings which involve minor children or paternity actions which involve issues of parental responsibility;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Belvin Perry, Jr., pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida, under Rule 2.215, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, and section 61.21, Florida Statutes, do hereby order that effective immediately, Administrative Order No. 07-98-37 is vacated and set aside and this Administrative Order shall supersede said Administrative Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

A. Provisions for Proceedings in Orange County and Osceola County:

1. Mandatory attendance at an educational program known generally as The Parent Education and Family Stabilization Course is established as a required policy in the Ninth Judicial Circuit for all parties in dissolution actions which include minor children or paternity actions involving issues of parental responsibility.

2. In all said actions all parties required to complete said parenting course shall begin the course as expeditiously as possible. For dissolution of marriage actions, unless excused by the court for good cause, the petitioner must complete the course within 45 days after the filing of the petition, and all other parties must complete the course within 45 days after service of the petition. For paternity actions, unless excused by the court for good cause, the petitioner must

complete the course within 45 days after filing the petition, and any other party 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. Each party to a dissolution or paternity action shall file proof of compliance with the Clerk of Court prior to the entry of the final judgment.

3. No divorce or paternity judgments involving issues of parental responsibility shall be granted in this Circuit, subject to the exceptions set forth herein, without proof of such compliance being received from the parties.

4. The Court shall reserve the right to waive or modify the educational program requirement upon good cause shown, in writing; but such waivers shall not be liberally provided. Certificates of completion from out of state providers may be accepted by the Court.

5. The Department of Children and Family Services shall approve the parenting course which shall be a course of a minimum of four (4) hours designed to educate, train, and assist divorcing parents in regard to the consequences of divorce on parents and children. The Department of Children and Family Services shall provide the Circuit with a list of approved course providers and sites at which The Parent Education and Family Stabilization course may be completed.

6. The Clerk of the Circuit Court shall make such list available to the parties so they may attend the course of their choice. It shall be the responsibility of the Clerk of the Circuit Court to appropriately docket the court records to show completion of the program upon receipt of the certificate of completion from each parent.

7. All parties to whom this requirement applies shall be responsible for enrolling in and completing such educational course, and for paying the required fee.

8. Upon completion of any Court approved educational program, all parties to whom this requirement applies shall be responsible for providing a certificate of completion to the

Clerk of the Circuit Court. Failure to comply with this Order may result in the Court's dismissal of the action, striking of pleadings, and/or other appropriate sanctions.

DONE AND ORDERED at Orlando, Florida this 31st day of July, 2007.

_____/s/_____
Belvin Perry, Jr.
Chief Judge

Copies to:
Clerk of Courts, Orange County
Clerk of Courts, Osceola County
General E-Mail Distribution List
<http://www.ninja9.org>