

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

Administrative Order: M99-3-B

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REQUIRING MANDATORY EDUCATION
FOR DIVORCING AND SEPARATING PARENTS**

A substantial number of dissolution, paternity and other family cases involve questions of custody, parental responsibility, primary physical residence and time sharing. The legislature, recognizing the adverse effect of parental separation, conflict, and dissolution of marriage on children, requires parents to complete a four (4) hour parent education and family stabilization course. Fla. Stat. §61.21. The parent stabilization class teaches parents how they can minimize the effects of their separation on the children and create a new co-parenting relationship.

PARENT EDUCATION AND STABILIZATION COURSE

1. The parties in all dissolutions of marriage with child(ren), paternity cases involving parental responsibility, and all other cases involving primary physical residence and parenting time with child(ren) or the modification of these issues shall attend a four (4) hour parent education and family stabilization program within forty-five (45) days after filing. This requirement does not apply to a petition to enjoin violence.

2. Each parent shall file a certificate of completion with the Clerk of Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, as soon as the party completes the course. The court will not enter a final judgment until both parents have completed the course. The presiding judge may excuse a parent from attending the course for good cause.

STANDING ORDER REQUIRING ATTENDANCE

1. The Administrative Judge of the Family Law Division shall prepare a Standing Order Requiring Parents Attend an Educational Course and file such order with the Clerk of Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, for safe-keeping. A list of approved programs can be found on the Fifth Circuit website at:

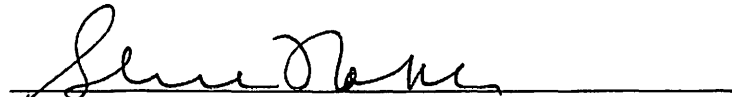
<http://www.circuit5.org/c5/programs-services/family-court-case-management/>

2. When a parent files a dissolution of marriage with child(ren), a paternity case involving parental responsibility, or any other case involving primary physical residence and parenting time with child(ren) or the modification of these issues, the Clerk of Circuit Court shall furnish petitioner or petitioner's attorney with a copy of the Standing Order Requiring Parents Attend an Educational Course and place a copy of the Standing Order with the summons for service on the other party. The Clerk shall document compliance with this provision by executing the certificate on a copy of the order and filing the copy in the case.

3. The petitioner and/or petitioner's attorney shall provide the other party with a copy of the Standing Order Requiring Parents Attend an Educational Course if a copy of the order is not included with the summons.

4. Failure of the petitioner to comply with this order may result in dismissal of the action or other sanctions.

ORDERED at Ocala, Marion County, Florida on May 2, 2017.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sue Robbins", is written over a horizontal line.

S. Sue Robbins

Marion County Administrative Judge and
Administrative Family Law Judge, Fifth Judicial Circuit