Local Civil Rule 94.05W
MANDATORY PARENTING SEMINARS

(a) Applicable Cases. This rule shall apply to all cases filed after January 1, 1997 under Chapter 26.09, Chapter 26.10, or Chapter 26.26 RCW which require a parenting plan or residential plan for minor children; including dissolutions, legal separations, major modifications, paternity actions in which paternity has been established, and non-parental custody actions.

(b) Mandatory Attendance. In all cases governed by this rule, all parties shall complete a parenting seminar approved by the court. Standards for parenting seminars shall be established by the court and providers approved by the court.

(c) Timing. Parties required by this rule to participate in a parenting seminar shall complete an approved parenting seminar within 60 days of service of a petition or motion initiating the action which is subject to this rule. In the case of paternity actions initiated by the prosecuting attorney's office, the parenting seminar shall be required only when paternity is established or acknowledged and a parenting plan is requested. The class will be completed prior to entry of a permanent parenting or residential plan.

(d) Fees. Each party attending a seminar shall pay a fee charged by the approved provider and sanctioned by the court. The court may waive the fee for indigent parties.

(e) Special Consideration/Waiver.

(1) In no case shall opposing parties be required to attend a seminar together.

(2) If the court determines that attendance at a seminar is not in the children's best interest, pursuant to Chapter 26.12 RCW, the court shall either:

(A) waive the requirement of completion of the seminar; or

(B) allow participation in an alternative parenting seminar if available.

(3) The court may waive a party's attendance or extend the time required for attendance at a seminar for good cause shown.

(f) Failure to Comply. Willful refusal to participate in a parenting seminar or willful delay in completion of a court ordered parenting seminar by any party will constitute contempt of court and may result in sanctions, including, but not limited to, imposition of monetary terms, striking of pleadings, or denial of affirmative relief to a party not in compliance with this rule.

[Adopted Effective January 1, 1997; Amended Effective September 1, 1999]