

SPR 94.08.2.
PARENTING SEMINARS

(a) **Applicable Cases.** This rule shall apply to all cases under Chapter 26.09, 26.10, or 26.26 RCW which require a parenting plan or residential schedule for minor children, including major modifications and paternity actions in which paternity has been established.

(b) **Mandatory Attendance.** Except as provided in Section (f) below, within ninety (90) days of filing an appearance, answer or other responsive pleading in this action, both parties shall attend a court-approved parent education seminar on the effects of family transitions on children, unless the parties have previously attended such a course.

(c) **Certificate of Completion.** Upon completion of the seminar, each party shall file with the court the seminar completion certificate provided by the sponsoring agency or provider. Additionally, a copy of the certificate of completion shall be provided to the judge at presentation of final documents.

(d) **Fees.** Each party attending a seminar shall pay a fee charged by the approved provider and authorized by the court.

(e) **Seminar Providers.** The court shall establish standards for parenting seminars and shall approve seminar providers. A list of approved parenting seminars shall be available from the Superior Court Administrator, Court Facilitator, and County Clerk. If a parenting seminar is not included on the list, then the court, upon proper motion, may allow other seminars to fulfill this requirement on a case-by-case basis.

(f) **Waiver/Special Consideration.**

Pursuant to RCW 26.12.172:

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

(2) Upon a showing of domestic violence or abuse which would not require mutual decision-making, pursuant to RCW 26.09.191, or if the court determines that attendance at a seminar is not in the children's best interest, the court shall either waive the requirement of completion of the seminar or allow participation in an alternative parenting seminar if available; and

(3) The Court may otherwise waive the requirement upon a showing of good cause.

(g) **Exchange of Parenting Plans.** At least sixty (60) days prior to trial, each parent shall provide the other parent with a Proposed Parenting Plan, if they have not already done so.

(h) **Failure to Comply.** Willful refusal to participate in a parenting seminar or willful delay in completing the parenting seminar may result in a finding of contempt and imposition of sanctions. The Court may decline to enter finalization documents until both parents have completed the seminar. [See Order to Show Cause Re: Parenting Class in Appendix F.]
