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 thirty (30) days of filing an appearance, answer or other responsive pleading in this action, both parties shall register for a court-approved parent education seminar on the effects of family transitions on children, unless the parties have previously attended such a course. Each party shall attend the seminar within sixty (60) days of registering.

(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. Within fourteen (14) days of completing the parenting seminar, 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.]