ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF JANUARY 1, 1996 ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR PARENTING SEMINARS AS REQUIRED BY LCR 95

The Clallam County Superior Court hereby adopts the following standards for parenting seminars:

(a) Mandatory Requirement. Where required by local court rule or by court order, parties shall participate in, and successfully complete, an approved parenting seminar within 60 days after service of a petition or initiating motion on the respondent.

(b) Approved Parenting Seminar. An approved parenting seminar is one that complies with the seminar content and instructor qualifications standards set forth in paragraphs (d) and (e) of this Order and has received Court approval.

(c) Fees. Each parent attending a seminar shall pay a fee charged by the approved provider agency. A sliding fee scale shall be available. The seminars shall be conducted at no cost to the County.

(d) Seminar Content. The seminar content will be approved by the Court, and shall include, at a minimum:

(1) the developmental stages of childhood;
(2) stress indicators in children;
(3) age appropriate expectations of children;
(4) the impact of divorce on children;
(5) the grief process;
(6) reducing stress for children through an amicable divorce;
(7) the long term impact of parental conflict on children;
(8) visitation recommendations to enhance the child's relationship with both parents;
(9) financial obligations of child rearing;
(10) conflict management and dispute resolution;
(11) communication skills for divorced parents;
(12) practical skills for working together; and
(13) the impact on children when stepparents and blended families enter their lives.

(e) Qualifications of Instructors. Parenting seminars will be conducted by a team of two instructors, including one male and one female. In certain circumstances, where two instructors are unavailable, then one instructor may conduct the seminar. Instructors shall have the following minimum credentials and experience.

(1) a bachelor's degree in social work, psychology or other related behavioral science;

(2) supervised experience in treatment of emotionally disturbed children, adolescents and their families;

(3) experience in providing a wide range of mental health services to children and families, with specific experience in the areas of separation/divorce, loss and grief, and

blended families.

(4) extensive knowledge of child development, age appropriate expectations for children, and positive parenting;

(5) experience in group treatment and/or facilitating classes and seminars;

(6) an ability to work with other agencies as part of a collaborative program; and

(7) strong oral communication skills.

When parties choose to use agencies or religious organizations which are not already approved by the Court, the Court may modify or waive the foregoing qualifications for the instructors upon a showing of other indicia of competence and experience.

(f) Length. The seminars shall, at a minimum, be three hours in length.

(g) Referrals for Other Services. During the seminar, referral resources will be made available to the parents, and their children, including individual and family counseling drug/alcohol counseling, anger management counseling, parenting classes, mediation, etc. These services are optional, and the parties must seek their own funding resources.

DATED this 29th day of December, 1995.