RULE 94.04 H
MANDATORY PARENT EDUCATION WORKSHOP

H. MANDATORY INFORMATION PROGRAM FOR PARENTS

The Douglas County Superior Court finds that it is in the best interest of any child whose parents or custodians are involved in specific court proceedings to provide such parents with an educational workshop concerning the impact family restructuring has on their child. The workshop offers parents tools to help ensure that their child's emotional needs will not be overlooked during the legal processes, to encourage parents to agree on child-related matters, and to aid in maximizing the use of court time.

(1) Types of Proceedings Required. Each person named as a party in the following types of proceedings filed after January 1, 1999 must comply with Local Rule 94.04H:

1. Dissolution of Marriage with child(ren) under 18 years old;

2. Legal Separation or Declaration of Invalidity with child(ren) under 18 years old.

3. Petition to establish custody or visitation including paternity, and/or

4. Post-judgment petition involving custody or visitation.

(2) Service on Parties. The Clerk of the court shall provide a copy of this rule (LR 94.04H) to the initiating party for service upon all parties against whom relief is sought, together with a statement describing the program including contact telephone numbers, addresses, statement of costs, and an explanation of how to request a waiver or deferral of the program registration fee.

(3) Mandatory. Each party who files an appearance in a proceeding of the types described above in Section (1) shall complete the program unless exempted by the court. No final order approving any residential or parenting plan shall be entered without proof of completion of such education program by the parents or legal guardians unless otherwise ordered by the court.

(4) Ninety (90) Day Deadline. Each party shall attend and complete an approved parenting workshop within ninety (90) days of filing a proceeding specified in Section (1) above.

(5) Exemption. The Court may exempt one or both parties from completion of the program if, after reviewing the requesting party's motion and supporting affidavit, the Court determines that participation is unnecessary.

(6) Approved Program. The parent education program sponsored by the Washington State University (WSU) Extension

Service is an approved program. Other programs may be approved by application to the Court.

(7) Proof of Completion. Upon completion of the program, the workshop provider shall issue a certificate of completion to each program participant. The certificate of completion shall be filed with the Clerk of the Court.

(8) Non-Complying Parties – Attorney's Fees Sanctions. A party who has completed the program shall have the right to request entry of an order from the court compelling the non-complying party's completion of the program. Should the non-complying party fail to complete the program in a timely manner without good reason, the court shall enter an award of reasonable attorney fees incurred for obtaining an order for compliance in favor of the complying party who uses this option to force the non-complying party into compliance or other sanctions as set forth below.

(9) Other Sanctions. If upon order of the court a non-complying party continues to refuse participation, the refusal may be considered by the Court in making its ruling on issues that are in dispute and/or may be grounds for contempt.

(10) Fees. Each party shall pay the fee charged by the approved provider. The Court shall reduce the fee to fifteen dollars ($15.00) whenever the filing fee has been waived. The court may waive the entire fee upon special application to the Court.

Adopted Effective September 1, 2002