

LCR 95.04  
MANDATORY PARENT EDUCATION WORKSHOP

The Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties Superior Courts find 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 October 1, 1999, must comply with Local Rule 95.04:

1. Dissolution of marriage with child(ren) under 18 years old;
2. Legal separation or declaration of invalidity of marriage 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 95.04) in a conspicuous place together with information from court approved parenting education providers.

(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(6) [Rescinded September 2, 2014.]

(7) Proof of Completion. Upon completion of the parenting education program, each program participant shall file the certificate of completion 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's fees and costs 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. Other sanctions as set forth in Section (9) below may also be ordered.

(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 rulings on issues which are in dispute and may be grounds for contempt, striking of pleadings, and/or default.

(10) [Rescinded September 2, 2014.]

[Adopted effective September 1, 1999.; amended effective September 2, 2014.]

---