IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF BURKE, COLUMBIA AND RICHMOND COUNTIES
STATE OF GEORGIA

ORDER
(Revoking and Replacing Order Entitled "Children of Divorce Program"

IN RE: PARENTING SEMINAR

Pursuant to the Inherent powers of this Court and Uniform Superior Court Rule 24.8 in order to provide for the speedy, efficient, and inexpensive resolution of disputes, it is hereby ordered:

1. All parties involved in any divorce, separate maintenance, legitimation, and other domestic relations action that involves an initial determination of child custody, are required to successfully complete a court-approved, certificate-bearing, parenting seminar. Failure to complete the seminar in a timely manner may subject you to contempt or other sanctions, which may include suspension of your visitation or custody rights.

2. Minimum requirements for court approval include:

   a. Four contact hours;
   b. Focus on developmental needs of children;
   c. Emphasis on fostering a child's emotional health during periods of stress;
   d. Topics covered must include: developmental stages of childhood; reactions of children to divorce, generally and at specific ages; how divorce affects families; grief processes and coping skills; roles of divorced parents; co-parenting skills; financial obligations of parents; and mediation as a tool to resolve domestic disputes; and
   e. Verification of successful completion of the program.

3. A certificate of completion from a parenting seminar that is not on the court's approved list may be substituted if written verification is provided to the Court that the seminar includes the minimum requirements listed above.

4. The seminar must be successfully completed within 31 days of service of the original complaint upon the defendant and the certificate must be presented to the judge at the time of the parties' court appearance.

5. Certificates of attendance are valid for three years.

6. The presiding judge may, for good cause shown, waive the parenting seminar requirement.

7. In those cases where there have been allegations of domestic violence, the parties must attend sessions on different dates.

8. Parties are responsible for paying their own registration fees for the program and they are to be paid directly to the program coordinators prior to commencement of the parenting seminar. If payment of the registration fee is a hardship, the Court may waive or reduce the fee for the program if the party presents a Verified Affidavit of Poverty and the Court finds the party meets its indigency guidelines.

9. Parties who do not comply with this Order are subject to the contempt powers of this Court.

10. The Clerk of Court shall provide all litigants actual notice of these requirements via a posting in the Clerk of Court Office and/or their website with the website addresses of the Augusta Judicial Circuit where this Order and approved list of providers shall be made publicly available.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 12th day of June, 2012.

J. Carlisle Overstreet, Chief Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

Carl C. Brown, Jr., Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

James G. Blanchard, Jr., Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

Michael N. Annis, Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

Sheryl B. Jolly, Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

J. David Roper, Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

Daniel J. Craig, Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

J. Wade Padgett, Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

DIVORCE EDUCATION-PARENTING CLASS

Below is a list of a few local Therapists, Physicians, and/or Counselors who offer the Parenting Seminar that is required by the Superior Court Judges of the Augusta Judicial Circuit which include Richmond, Columbia, and Burke Counties. In addition, you may find classes that are offered through other sources. Any Seminar not listed below must be approved by the presiding Superior Court Judge prior to attendance. **ONLINE CLASSES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

You will receive a certificate once you have completed the seminar. This certificate must be filed with the Clerk of Superior Court. If you fail to complete the seminar, visitation privileges can be affected, fines can be imposed, and/or other contempt actions may be taken.

Parties involved that do not live in the Augusta Judicial Circuit are still required to take the Parenting Class Seminar. Please contact your local Superior Court or local social services office for information regarding a Parenting Class Seminar.

COORDINATOR/AGENCY	PHONE NUMBER /WEBSITE
ANNE WATTS, MS, LPC 3150 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 110 Augusta, GA 30909	**706-855-1365** - May register by phone OR online - 2 locations for classes - www.divorcingfamilies.net - Class schedule available online
GEORGIA FAMILY CRISIS SOLUTIONS 4145 Columbia Road Martinez, GA 30907	**706-869-7373** - May register by phone OR online - 2 locations for classes - www.gfcscc.com - Class schedule available online
KIDS RESTART 1751 Broad Street (Near Kroc Center) Augusta, GA 30904	**706-828-0180** - www.kidsrestart.org - Call for class schedule and registration
WIMBERLY HOUSE 521 S. Liberty Street Waynesboro, GA 30830	**706-554-6644 or Cell 706-551-0526** - Hours of Registration 2 – 5 pm - Call for class schedule and registration
ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE **Transparenting Class** **Family Advocacy Agency** Bldg. 33512 @ Fort Gordon **(MILITARY ONLY)**	**706-791-3579** - Class held at Family Outreach Center - No fee for class – 1st Wednesday of each month from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. - Must call to register for class
LIFE MANAGEMENT GROUP 3540 Wheeler Road, Suite 619 Augusta, GA 30909	**706-733-0333** - www.galifemanagement.com - Call for class schedule and registration

Revised 06/23/2016