

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PAULDING COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING PARENTING SEMINAR IN DIVORCE CASES**

Pursuant to Unif. Super. Ct. R. 24.8, the Judges of the Paulding Judicial Circuit desire to establish a program in Paulding County designed to educate the parties to divorce actions involving minor children regarding the effect of divorce on the minor children of the marriage. All parties to a divorce action in this Court which involves minor children shall be required to attend in person or via videoconferencing software that requires participants to be visible and present during the entire session an educational seminar of at least four hours and pay a reasonable fee, unless waived, for such seminar. These seminars shall be conducted by the Seventh Judicial Administrative District and shall follow the attached qualifications adopted by the Judges of the Paulding Circuit. **Parties may attend alternative programs in person or via videoconferencing software that requires participants to be visible and present during the entire session that follow the established qualifications enumerated on Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Parties who complete an alternative program must file a certification from the program provider that the alternative program complies with all requirements of this Standing Order.**

**Online video seminars that do not require participants to be visible and present during the entire session will not be accepted.**

The Clerk of Court is directed to maintain and, when appropriate, distribute information on the seminar administered by the Seventh Judicial Administrative District. Unless waived, each person attending shall pay the required participation fee to the contracting agency and will receive a certificate upon completion to be filed with the Clerk of Court.

**Attendance requirements are mandatory and can be waived only for good cause by an order of the Court. The certificate of completion shall be filed with the Clerk within thirty (30) days of the filing of the divorce complaint.**

SHEILA BUTLER, CLERK  
PAULDING COUNTY  
SUPERIOR/STATE COURT  
2023 MAR 27 PM 1:13  
FILED IN OFFICE  
PAULDING COUNTY, GA

Unless waived, failure to successfully complete the seminar shall be cause for appropriate action by the Judge including, but not limited to, withholding the final decree of divorce, attachment for contempt, and award of attorney's fees and costs.

The Judge hearing the divorce may, as a discretionary matter, grant a final decree of divorce prior to a party completing the seminar, but shall retain authority to impose sanctions upon either party who fails to comply with this order and complete the seminar, including conditioning a non-compliant parent's right to visitation upon the filing of that parent's certificate of attendance should the Court find that to be in the best interest of the children.

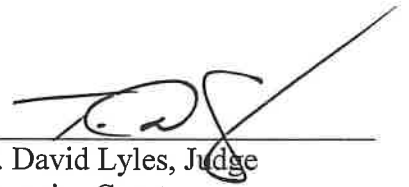
SO ORDERED, this 2<sup>TH</sup> day of MARCH, 2023.



Tonny S. Beavers, Chief Judge  
Superior Court  
Paulding Judicial Circuit



Dean C. Buccì, Judge  
Superior Court  
Paulding Judicial Circuit



T. David Lyles, Judge  
Superior Court  
Paulding Judicial Circuit

## **EXHIBIT A- REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL DIVORCING PARENTS SEMINARS**

### **EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL:**

1. Developmental stages of childhood and the reactions to divorce of children at specific ages.
2. Grief process and coping skills as they pertain to parents and children.
3. How divorce affects families and roles of divorced parents including stresses and challenges.
4. Co-Parenting skills; living apart and parenting together.
5. Financial obligation of parents.
6. Mediation as a tool to resolve domestic disputes.

### **PROGRAM LENGTH & MEDIUM:**

- Four hours in length
- Includes: Two fifteen minute breaks and time for program evaluation and certificate presentation.
- In person or videoconferencing format that requires participants to be visible and present during the entire session

### **PRESENTER QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Clinical or educational background
- Bachelors Degree required (Masters preferred)

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIRMENTS:**

- Certificates numbered so they can be tracked
- Alternative programs must certify compliance with the requirements of Standing Order

### **MONITORING OF ALL DIVORCING PARENTS PROGRAMS**

1. Quarterly observations of presenters by program administrator will be sent to the District Court Administrator for computation that will be forwarded to the Judges for evaluation.
2. Evaluations by participants sent to District Court Administrator monthly for evaluation.
3. Random observation of seminar by the Seventh District Court Administrator's staff.