

## **NOTICE OF MANDATORY ATTENDANCE AT A PARENT EDUCATION AND FAMILY STABILIZATION COURSE**

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Pursuant to Administrative Order FM-2012-016-SC mandatory attendance at a parent education and family stabilization course is established as a policy in the Seventh Judicial Circuit for all parties in dissolution of marriage proceedings with minor children, paternity actions, family law cases involving issues of shared parental responsibilities or timesharing of minor children unless parties have previously completed a parenting education course and have filed a Certificate of Completion. It is the responsibility of the Petitioner to provide the Respondent with a copy of these instructions and the list of providers.

For dissolutions and family law cases involving issues of shared parental responsibilities or timesharing of minor children, the petitioner shall complete the chosen program within forty-five (45) days after filing the petition. The respondent shall complete the chosen program within forty-five (45) days after service of the petition.

For paternity actions, the petitioner shall complete the chosen program within forty-five (45) days after filing the petition. The respondent shall complete the chosen program within forty-five (45) days after an acknowledgement of paternity by that party, an adjudication of paternity as to that party, or an order granting visitation to or support from that party.

Each party who successfully completes the program shall file a Certificate of Completion with the Clerk of the Court, who shall file said Certificate in the appropriate case file.

**FAILURE TO ATTEND MAY RESULT IN APPROPRIATE SANCTIONS.**

**A listing of State of Florida court-approved Parenting Course Providers can be accessed at <https://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childwelfare/docs/ParentEducationAndFamilyStabilization.pdf>, and also at [www.circuit7.org](http://www.circuit7.org) – *Programs – Family Court Services – Parent Education and Family Stabilization Courses*. The classroom courses are listed by circuit. There is a general listing of all state approved internet course providers and correspondence course providers available at the site as well.**