

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CLAYTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

FILED
CLAYTON COUNTY, GA
2023 JAN 11 PM 2:16

STANDING ORDER OF CLAYTON COUNTY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

IN RE: PARENTING SEMINAR
HELPING CHILDREN COPE WITH CHANGE

Pursuant to the inherent powers of the Superior Court of Clayton County, and Rules 1.2 and 24.8, Uniform Rules of the Superior Court and with the intent to continue the implementation of the program established on November 30, 1993, with the entering into an agreement with Families First, Inc. to provide an educational program for parties in domestic relations actions.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

THAT all parties in all actions for divorce, separate maintenance, legitimation, paternity, contested modification of custody, and contested modification of visitation filed on or after the first day of January, 1994, where children under the age of 18 years are involved shall successfully complete the seminar, unless otherwise ordered by the assigned judge or a waiver is obtained. The failure to successfully complete the seminar shall be cause for action by the assigned judge including, but not limited to, withholding the final decree of divorce, attachment for contempt, and award of attorneys' fees and costs. The assigned judge may, as a discretionary matter, grant a final decree of divorce before the completion of the seminar, but shall retain authority to impose sanctions upon either party who fails or refuses to comply with the order to attend and complete the seminar.

The assigned judge shall retain discretion to waive attendance for good cause shown. Such good cause may include: a party's non-residence in Georgia or in a county in which the action is pending, or the reasonable availability of a similar program to the party or other such reasonable availability of a similar program to the party or such reasonable causes which indicate to the Court that a party should not be required to complete the program. The court may, in its discretion, accept alternative counseling covering the subject matter of the required seminar. The Court Administrator will determine which of the various courts in other jurisdictions have established a seminar similar to the Clayton County seminar. The assigned judge may allow a party to attend an appropriate out of the county seminar as a substitute for attending the seminar in Clayton County.


The program will be administered by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office, under the Office of the Court Administrator. All receipts of fees shall be promptly deposited into a special fund (270), administered through Clayton County Finance Department. This account is subject to audit by Clayton County, as are county accounts. The undersigned will be furnished a summary of receipts and expenditures in the previous quarter on January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 of each year. Expenditures from the account will be authorized by the Chief Superior Court Judge or their designee, or in the absence of the Chief Judge, by any one of the undersigned, by formal request to the Clayton County Finance Department for disbursement of said fund.

Information concerning seminars will be furnished by the Office of the Clerk of Superior and by the Office of the Court Administrator through the ADR Office. The Clerk's office shall inform parties of their responsibility to attend a seminar upon the filing of the pleadings. Attorneys practicing in the Clayton Judicial Circuit should provide information concerning the seminar, the mandatory requirement of the seminar and cost of same when giving advice to clients involved in an action covered by this order.

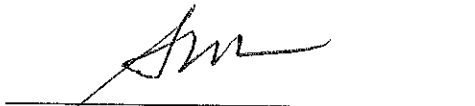
The administrator of the parenting seminar program shall ensure that there is security at all seminar locations from one-half hour before the beginning of a seminar until all participants have departed the premises, including the parking lot. The fund shall be used to pay for off-duty police or Sheriff Department personnel to provide for this security.

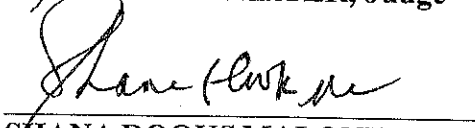
SO ORDERED this 11th day of January, 2023.


ROBERT L. MACK, JR., Chief Judge


AARON B. MASON, Judge


JEWEL C. SCOTT, Judge


GERONDA V. CARTER, Judge


SHANA ROOKS MALONE, Judge