

Notice of Mandatory Parent Education Class for Parents

Effective March 1, 2009, the Family Court of St. Louis County requires that all parents who are seeking a divorce (legally known as dissolution of marriage), legal separation, declaration of paternity or petition for custody, or who are seeking to modify a prior order which involves issues of child custody or visitation and who have at least one (1) child under age 19 in common must attend a Parent Education Class sponsored through the Court.

These virtual classes cover divorce, legal separation, paternity determination or custody action, or modifications of a prior order and its impact on adults as well as children, and presents ways to help the family cope with changes resulting from these proceedings. The classes focus on increasing cooperation between parents with an emphasis upon reducing potential trauma for children. The Petitioner (i.e. the parent who files the petition for divorce or legal separation, paternity or custody or a motion to modify a prior order) must attend a class within 45 days after filing the petition or motion; the Respondent (i.e. the other parent) must attend a class within 45 days after service of the petition or motion, or the filing of a voluntary entry of appearance and waiver. Please have your cause number available when you schedule your class.

You may select a virtual class from the following providers:

Kids in the Middle

2650 S. Hanley Rd. Ste 150

St. Louis, MO 63144

www.kidsinthemiddle.org

Phone: 314 909-9922, press 2 for Court Programs.

Kids in the Middle offers a virtual 2-hour, Co-Parenting Education (COPE) Class. All classes are facilitated by a trained, master's level therapist and provide an opportunity discussion.

Parent Educators, LLC

10733 Kirkwood Road, Ste.#143

Kirkwood, MO 63122

www.stlparenteducation.com

Phone: 314 863-3310

Parent Educators is a small, locally owned business with over 25 years of experience providing parenting education classes to families going through a divorce, separation or custody agreement. Our class, "Keeping the Focus on Children of Divorce" is offered in either an on-line or virtual class format and lasts for approximately 2 hours. Our virtual class is facilitated by licensed, master's level therapists with time for discussion through-out the class.

Focus on Kids Online

Website: extension.missouri.edu/programs/focus-on-kids

Phone: 573 808-0076

Focus on Kids is a research-based, educational, online program for parents who are divorcing, separating, or modifying their parenting agreement. Register and complete the 75 minute course all online at any time. Spanish and English subtitles available.

bit.ly/FOKOnlineFlyer



Notice of Mediation Services for Parents

What is Mediation

Mediation brings people together to solve problems. Mediators help people talk about their differences and find answers to resolve their case. The mediator is a neutral person who helps you have conversations and try to find agreements but is not the final decision-maker or judge. Mediators meet with both parents together or separately in a comfortable setting. Unlike court, mediation is private. The goal is to achieve win-win agreements to meet your family's needs.

What are the Advantages of Mediation?

- Together, you and your co-parent, not a judge, develop solutions.
- Agreements are tailored for each family.
- Flexibility that may not be available through the Court.
- Mediation is less expensive.
- Mediation is confidential.
- Mediators do not take sides.
- Your case may get resolved quicker.
- You can still go to court if you cannot reach an agreement.
- Protect your family from ongoing court battles and continued conflict.

Selecting a Mediator

Parents may select a mediator from the Family Court of St. Louis County's Approved Mediator List. These mediators have certified that they meet the qualifications set forth by the Family Court of St. Louis County for mediating all relevant issues raised in a dissolution petition, paternity action, or motion to modify; these include property, financial arrangements, child custody and related parenting issues. Each mediator sets his/her own fees. To learn more about fees, contact the mediator directly. If you would like to obtain a List of Court Approved Mediators, visit the Court's website at: www.stlcourtscourts.com/attorneys/mediator-list-for-family-court1/
The Family Court takes no position as to the relative skills of any individual listed as a Court Approved Mediator nor does the Court take any responsibility for the services provided by such individuals.

Free Mediation Services

MARCH Mediation offers up to four (4) hours of free, confidential mediation services to parents to develop parenting plans or resolve child support issues for use in dissolution, paternity or adult abuse proceedings. MARCH Mediation can be reached at 1-800-595-9750 or www.MARCHMediation.org.

Local Rule 68.14: Mediation

The Court encourages parents to use mediation to resolve their disputes and requires that parents complete at least two (2) hours of mediation when there is no agreement on custody or visitation and financial issues. Parents may select a mediator of their choice from the Family Court's Approved Mediator List to participate in confidential mediation or the Court may order parents to mediate confidentially with a mediator from the same list. Lastly, the Court can order the parents to Domestic Relations Service for custody plan development (which is not confidential).