

FAMILY EDUCATION AND PARENT STABILIZATION COURTS (COPE)

This seminar is required in **cases that involve minor children** (children who are not yet 18 years of age), including separate maintenance cases. This requirement applies to **all** dissolution of marriage actions with minor children; all paternity actions where paternity has been established; all actions requesting visitation, shared parental responsibility, or custody. Only a Judge can excuse you from this mandatory obligation and it is extremely rare that you will be excused. (The Judge will usually excuse you if you have previously completed the seminar.)

If you receive a copy of the order to attend the seminar addressed to the other party it is simply because the file did not contain his/her address.

If you know the other party is residing outside of Brevard County, contact the Family Court Coordinator at 321-637-5368, with the current address so an out-of-county order and affidavit can be entered and mailed out.

If one or both of the parties lives outside of Brevard County, is in the military service or incarcerated, that party must conduct an honest search to find a similar seminar in their area. Many counties in Florida, as well as many other states also require and provide a similar seminar. If they cannot locate a seminar in their area, they must purchase the seminar booklet from one of the Brevard County seminar providers.

Once they have read the booklet they will complete the affidavit that was sent to them with the out-of-county seminar order and attach the receipt for purchase of the book to the affidavit. The affidavit must be filed with the Clerk of Court in Brevard County, Florida. Seminar providers are as follows:

Family Counseling Center-----321-636-2273
Child & Family Consultants-----321-768-6800
Parents, Children & Divorce-----800-767-8193
Career & Family Success Center-----321-433-7530
Parent Education & Family Stabilization-----321-723-2927 (o)

NOTE: This course CANNOT be completed over the Internet without prior Judicial approval.

BY CORRESPONDENCE FOR THOSE RESIDING OUTSIDE OF BREVARD COUNTY ONLY

Parents, Children & Divorce-----800-767-8193
C.D. Tucker and Assoc, Inc-----954-452-2020
Kids in Civorice Situations, Inc.-----800-858-3483
Career & Family Success Center-----321-433-7530

If one party does not comply with the seminar requirement they cannot hold up the divorce process. Contact the Family Court Coordinator and tell her an order was entered and one party has not gone to the seminar in the required time. Ask her to set a "Rule to Show Cause" hearing. You will be sent a copy of the notice once a hearing has been set. At this hearing the Judge will take action he feels appropriate. Your attendance at this hearing is not required.