

**IN THE COURTS OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

Administrative Order No. 2007-28
(Vacates Administrative Order 2004-11)

**IN RE: FAMILY LAW
 PARENT EDUCATION AND FAMILY STABILIZATION COURSE**

ORDER

Effective July 1, 2003, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) was designated the responsibility of approving all parent education and family stabilization courses for divorcing parents pursuant to Section 61.21, Florida Statutes.

The Department of Children and Families has provided each judicial circuit with an approved list of providers as well as sites where the courses will be delivered. Each course meets the minimum curriculum standards for parenting courses in the State of Florida. The Clerk of Court, Family Law Division, in each county in the First Circuit shall keep a current list of DCF approved classroom courses and make it available to all parties to domestic relations cases.

This order applies to all parties in the following case situations: dissolution of marriage with children, separate maintenance or paternity when custody or visitation is at issue, and any domestic relations action when so ordered by the Court.

All parties who are required to attend must successfully complete one of the DCF approved on-site classroom courses, at their own expense, unless the Court has granted a request to attend an alternative course. Documentation of successful completion of the course must be filed in the court file.

Parties with special circumstances must obtain approval from the Court prior to taking an alternative course. Special circumstances include parties who reside out of state, are incarcerated, or are determined by the Court to be unable to attend an approved classroom course. Parties who reside outside the First Circuit but within the State of Florida may contact programs in the county where they reside for a list of approved course providers.

The course shall be successfully completed by both parties to the action within sixty (60) days of service of the original petition upon the respondent, and prior to the Court entering a final judgment, whether or not the action is contested.

Upon a party's failure to successfully complete the course, the assigned judge may take appropriate action, including but not limited to an action for contempt. The Court may waive the requirement of completion of the course in individual cases.

DONE AND ORDERED, in Chambers at Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida, this the 31st day of July, 2007.

/s/ KIM A. SKIEVASKI

KIM A. SKIEVASKI
CHIEF JUDGE

Conformed copies to:

All Judges, First Judicial Circuit
All Clerks, First Judicial Circuit
Robin Wright, Trial Court Administrator
Janet Gilbert, Family Court Manager
Department of Children and Families
Summation, Escambia/Santa Rosa Bar Assn.