

Registration Form

Parents Forever

(Please fill out completely and print clearly) **Must register and pay at least 5 days before session begins**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Home Phone () _____

Work Phone () _____

Court File No. _____

Do you feel comfortable attending the same session as ex-spouse/ex-significant other?

Yes _____ No _____
(If no, person's name _____)

Do you have an OFP
(Order of Protection) ?

Yes _____ No _____

Dates of 2012 classes
(Tuesday evenings)
(Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
April 3, 10, 17

To register: Complete the registration form on this brochure and return with the registration fee to:

Court Administration
P.O. Box 248
New Ulm, MN 56073-0248

Checks should be made payable to:
Court Administration

Cost: \$45.00 per person

Telephone inquiries about the program may be directed to:
Court Administrator staff - (507) 233-6671

Classes will be held at Nierengarten & Hippert Law Office, 11 No Minnesota St, New Ulm MN

PARENTS FOREVER

EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES
IN TRANSITION

Visit www.parenting.umn.edu for more information on this program

A research-based program designed to help parents learn how to make informed, child-supportive decisions resulting in healthy children and positive parent-child relationships.

Divorce affects at least 1,250,000 U.S. children every year. Fewer than half of America's children can expect to live out their childhood with their biological parents.

When parents fail to deal constructively with custody, child support, and other difficult issues, the pain, for children and parents alike, endures long after the divorce is final. **Parents Forever**, a research-based curriculum developed by University of Minnesota Extension Service educators and other professionals, puts parents on the path to minimizing trauma for their children.

Parents Forever encourages parents to work out agreements on contentious issues and avoid putting their children in the position of having to make decisions that seem to favor one parent over the other.

Parents Forever is in response to Minnesota legislation requiring educational programs for divorcing parents, and it meets the Minnesota Supreme Court's educational criteria. The curriculum has been specially designed and tested. It is best taught by a collaboration of local community partners, such as governmental and private social service providers, lawyers, and parent educators.

When a mother and father divorce, it is a major life change for all members of the family. Each family member's emotional, psychological, physical and financial well-being needs to be carefully considered.

Children are often affected for years to come by decisions that divorcing parents make during the initial phase of divorce.

The "Parents Forever" sessions are intended to provide divorcing couples – or those contemplating divorce – with the information they need to make decisions that will minimize the stress of this transition on the entire family.

STATEMENTS FROM THOSE WHO HAVE ATTENDED PRIOR SESSIONS.

- *The classes helped me to realize that although this process is difficult, there are tools and techniques that lessen the pain for all family members.
- *We should have been in this program before we started divorce proceedings, it would have helped eliminate some hard feelings.
- *I didn't want to go at first, but I found them to be very helpful.

The most important thing I learned:

- *...to make sure my children knew that the divorce was not their fault and that their Mom and Dad still love them.
- *...how easy it is to put your child in the middle. Sometimes it happens before you know it.
- *...to communicate with my children and ex-spouse.

✓ **Impact of Divorce on Adults** helps parents understand the divorce process and suggests ways to cope constructively with the accompanying stress, anger, and conflict. These materials also include discussion of safety issues, including spousal abuse, child abuse, and sexually transmitted diseases.

✓ **Impact of Divorce on Children** focuses on what children experience, and how parents can lead their children through this time of transition while helping their children regain a sense of stability.

✓ **Legal Issues and Role of Mediation in Divorce** discusses how to choose a lawyer, defines legal terms, explains basic divorce procedures, and discusses child custody and child support. An introduction to mediation is also provided, so parents can consider this option as a means of making divorce and custody decisions.

✓ **Money Issues in Divorce** suggests ways to cope with emotional, social, and economic impacts of living with reduced income, including how parents can most effectively talk to children of various ages about money. Information is also given on how to plan a new budget and accurately calculate the cost of raising children.

✓ **Pathways to a New life** deals with communication skills and other tools useful for starting life anew. Included is discussion of possible challenges and benefits associated with new direction their lives may take, including reconciliation with the other parent, single parenting, new relationships, and remarriage.

