

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF OLMSTED

DISTRICT COURT  
FAMILY DIVISION  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**ORDER REQUIRING COMPLETION OF CHILD CUSTODY CLASSES**

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 518.157, which is set forth below, all parties in child custody actions filed in Olmsted County are required to attend the Dissolution and Custody Planning series sponsored by Family Service Rochester, or an equivalent program.

**Within fourteen (14) days of receipt of this order all parties shall file proof of registration in the Dissolution and Custody Planning series, or an equivalent program, with the court. Failure to file proof of registration within fourteen (14) days shall constitute contempt of court and will be addressed by the court.**

Upon completion of the Dissolution and Custody Planning series, or an equivalent program, all parties shall file a certificate of completion of said program with the court. Failure to complete the program and file a certificate of completion shall constitute contempt of court and will be addressed by the court.

No motion hearing of any kind may be scheduled before the court unless the party requesting the hearing has completed the Dissolution of Custody Planning series and filed a certificate of completion of program with the court.

No temporary order, final order or judgment will be entered by the Court unless the party seeking the entry of order or judgment has completed the Dissolution of Custody Planning series and filed a certificate of completion of program with the court.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2011.

BY THE COURT:

  
Debra A. Jacobson

  
Joseph E. Chase

  
Kevin A. Lund

  
Robert Birnbaum

  
Jodi L. Williamson

  
Christina K. Stevens

Minn. Stat. §518.157, Parent education program in proceedings involving children  
**Subd. 3. Attendance.** In a proceeding under this chapter where custody or parenting time is contested, the parents of a minor child shall attend a minimum of eight hours in an orientation and education program that meets the minimum standards promulgated by the Minnesota Supreme Court. In all other proceedings involving custody, support, or parenting time the court may order the parents of a minor child to attend a parent education program. The program shall provide the court with names of persons who fail to attend the parent education program as ordered by the court. Persons who are separated or contemplating involvement in a dissolution, paternity, custody or parenting time proceeding may attend a parent education program without a court order. **Unless otherwise ordered by the court, participation in a parent education program must begin within 30 days after the first filing with the court or as soon as practicable after that time based on the reasonable availability of classes for the program for the parent** (emphasis added). Parent education programs must offer an opportunity to participate at all phases of a pending or postdecree proceeding. Upon request of a party and a showing of good cause, the court may excuse the party from attending the program. If past or present domestic abuse, as defined in chapter 518B, is alleged, the court shall not require the parties to attend the same parent education sessions and shall enter an order setting forth the manner in which the parties may safely participate in the program.