

2.9 MANDATORY PARENTING EDUCATION CLASS

UPDATED 08/30/2022

Order for Mandatory Parenting Education Class

Pursuant to O.R.C. § 3109.053, in any action for divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, or annulment in which there are any minor children of the marriage, the parties must successfully complete a court-approved parenting class.

Three classes will satisfy the requirement:

"Parenting Through Transitions" a 2 1/2 hour, in-person class;

"Children in Between" a 4 hour, online class; and

"Two Families Now" a 4-6 hour, online class.

The online courses are offered in English and Spanish. For the in-person class, an interpreter will be assigned for a party who has limited English proficiency.

The Court will issue and serve upon both parties an Order requiring both parties to register for, to pay for, and to complete one of the classes. The Order will include a registration form for the in-person class and information for the online classes. Parties who choose to use one of the online classes shall register with the online provider and follow the program's instructions.

"Children In Between": <https://online.divorce-education.com/locale/ohio/hamilton>

"Two Families Now": <http://www.twofamiliesnow.com/?affiliate=hamilton>

Time Limits for Completion of the Class

Plaintiffs in actions for divorce, legal separation and annulment, shall successfully complete the class within forty-two (42) days of the filing of the action. Defendants in actions for divorce, legal separation and annulment, shall successfully complete the class within forty-two (42) days of completion of service of process. Both petitioners in actions for dissolution of marriage shall provide proof of attendance at the time of filing the petition for dissolution.

Registration and Payment of Cost for the Class

Each party will be responsible for his/her prompt registration and payment of the cost for the class. A verified affidavit of indigency will be accepted for those parties with limited means.

"Parenting Through Transitions" costs \$35.00 payable to the Hamilton County Clerk of Court.

"Children In Between" and "Two Families Now" are payable to the online provider.

Waiver of Class Attendance Requirement

The Court may waive attendance and successful completion of the class on a case-by-case basis for good cause shown. All such requests must be submitted to the Dispute Resolution Department.

Proof of Attendance

Upon attending and successfully completing a class, each participant shall receive a certificate of attendance and completion. Each participant is responsible for providing the Court a copy of the certificate as proof of class attendance. Certification from the parenting education class is valid for two years. Parties must retake the class if certification has expired.

Failure to Attend

With regard to any party who has not successfully completed the class within the time limits set forth above, the Court may, or may refuse to, any of the following:

- 1) allocate or modify parental rights and responsibilities, pre or post decree;
- 2) grant shared parenting;
- 3) grant, modify and/or enforce parenting time; or
- 4) dismiss the complaint or the counterclaim.

In cases of willful failure to complete or to delay completing the class, the Court may also elect to take such other additional actions as it deems appropriate, including actions for contempt. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no action shall be delayed because the non-filing or non-moving party's failure to complete the class.

Evaluation

Each participant will be asked to complete a class evaluation prior to receiving the certificate mentioned above.

Additional Education

When it appears to be in the best interests of the minor child(ren), the Court may order appropriate additional parenting education for either party and may order that the parents' child(ren) attend classes or counseling with the parents.