

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR BREVARD COUNTY,
FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.:
05-28-B

**IN RE: DOMESTIC RELATIONS - ATTENDING THE HELPING OUR CHILDREN COPE
WITH DIVORCE COURSE BY INTERNET**

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 61.21 requires parents who are separating or divorcing to attend an educational program which provides information regarding the process by which courts make decisions on issues affecting their children and suggestions as to how parents may ease the coming adjustments in family structure for their children;

WHEREAS, administrative order 99-18-B mandates that litigants that file petitions which include a request for relief involving minor children of the parties shall attend a 3 ½ hour to 4 hour seminar on the subject of "Helping Our Children Cope With Divorce";

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) is responsible for approving any proposed parenting course to ensure that said provider meets the requirements set forth in Florida Statute 61.21;

WHEREAS, it is beneficial, when feasible, for parents taking such course to engage in face-to-face participation with the instructor and other parents;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the minor children of Brevard County that divorcing parents fulfill the Helping Our Children Cope With Divorce course requirement by attending the mandatory course in person so that said party may gain the benefit of a group environment that provides for group discussion and interaction with other parents in the same or similar situation, and also provides for case-specific interaction with a live instructor;

WHEREAS, internet learning courses are not generally acceptable

to the judiciary of Brevard County in the Eighteenth Circuit because they do not provide the parents the opportunity to interact with each other, other attendees, and a live course provider, deemed essential to comport with the spirit, as well as the letter of the course requirement; and

WHEREAS, discretion is vested exclusively in the judiciary to preside over divorce proceedings.

It is thereupon

ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

Any internet learning course generally acceptable by entities other than the judiciary of Brevard County, Eighteenth Circuit shall be acceptable to the judiciary of Brevard County, Eighteenth Circuit specifically only in cases of exigent circumstances, such as the permanent relocation of a party out of state, such circumstances shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. Parties must receive prior approval from the Court if they request to fulfill the course requirement by participating in an internet course.

That this Order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect until further Order of the Court.

DONE AND ORDERED this 1st day of June, 2005.

JAMES E.C. PERRY
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CHIEF JUDGE

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