

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)
)
AMENDING ARIZONA CODE OF) Administrative Order
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION § 3-202:) No. 2012 - 8
PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS) (Affecting Administrative
) Order No. 2010-134)
)
_____)

Pursuant to the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration § 1-201(E), the Chief Justice may adopt emergency administrative code proposals and technical changes in existing code sections by Administrative Order without prior distribution for comment and action by the Arizona Judicial Council.

In the First Regular Session of the Fiftieth Legislature (2011), the Legislature passed Senate Bill 1187 (Chapter 305), effective January 1, 2013. The legislation modifies educational programming requirements for parent education programs required by A.R.S. § 25-351 et seq.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that Arizona Code of Judicial Administration § 3-202 is amended as indicated on the attached document, effective January 1, 2013. All other provisions of § 3-202 as adopted, remain unchanged and in effect.

Dated this 19th day of January, 2012.

REBECCA WHITE BERCH
Chief Justice

ARIZONA CODE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
Part 3: Superior Court
Chapter 2: Domestic Relations
Section 3-202: Parent Education Programs

A. [no changes]

B. Authority. A.R.S. § 25-351 provides:

- A. The superior court in each county shall adopt and implement an educational program for the purpose of educating persons about the ~~impacts that~~ impact of divorce, ~~the restructuring of families and judicial involvement have on~~ adults and children.
- B. The supreme court shall adopt minimum standards for educational programs. The presiding judge of the superior court in each county shall submit an educational program plan to the supreme court for approval. The plan shall be consistent with the minimum standards that are adopted by the supreme court, including the length and nature of the program, the qualifications of program providers and the means by which the program will be evaluated and maintained. Beginning January 1, 2013, these standards shall require that education programs at minimum include instruction related to all of the following:
 - 1. The emotional, psychological, financial, physical and other short-term and long-term effects of divorce on adults and children.
 - 2. Options available as alternatives to divorce.
 - 3. Resources available to improve or strengthen marriage.
 - 4. The legal process of divorce and options available for mediation.
 - 5. Resources available after divorce.
- C. Each program shall also include information regarding the notification requirements of A.R.S. section 25-403.05, subsection B.
- ED. The presiding judge of the superior court or a judge who is designated by the presiding judge shall administer the program in each county and may provide or contract with political subdivisions in this state or private entities to provide the program to participants who are required to attend.

C. [no changes]

D. Length and Nature of the Program.

- 1. The program shall be a minimum of two hours and a maximum of six hours. The program length shall be adequate to cover the program material. To the extent that each county has the resources, the program shall be available at flexible times, including evenings and weekends, and be offered early in the domestic relations litigation process.
- 2. In accordance with A.R.S. § 25-351(B) and (C), All programs shall include but shall not be limited to ~~information~~ education on the following topics ~~which relate to the impact~~

~~divorce or separation, the restructuring of families and judicial proceedings have on children:~~

- The emotional, psychological, financial, physical and other short-term and long-term effects of divorce on adults and children.
- Options available as alternatives to divorce.
- Resources available to improve or strengthen marriage.
- The legal process of divorce and options available for mediation.
- Resources available after divorce.
- ~~Common reactions by children and parents to divorce and separation.~~
- Helpful and harmful parent behaviors.
- Communication and co-parenting skills.
- Harmful effects on children from parental conflict, including domestic violence.
- Children's reactions to divorce and separation at different developmental stages and warning signs of serious problems.
- Responsibility of parents to provide emotional support and financial support to children.
- Factors which contribute to healthy adjustment for children including the value of parenting plans.
- Basic Arizona family court procedures.
- Issues surrounding continued access to maternal and paternal relatives.
- ~~Resources in the community to obtain additional services.~~
- Notification requirements of A.R.S. § 25-403.05(C).

3. and 4. [no changes]

E. through **H.** [no changes]