# FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

# PARENT EDUCATION

## What is It?

Parent Education Programs are a 6-8 hour course to help parents cope with a divorce or separation. It is not a course on how to raise children.

## Who Must Attend?

-All parents in divorce cases with children up to the age of 17

-All parents who are a party to a custody proceeding

-A parent in a visitation proceeding if the opposing party is also a parent of the child.

## Which Class Should I Attend?

A list of approved education programs is attached. Parents are responsible for enrolling themselves in a program.

## Who Must Attend Domestic Violence Related Classes?

Both parents must go if:

-One parent has a criminal conviction for a crime against the other parent

-There is or ever was a Protection from Abuse Order between the parties

Parents may not attend the same domestic violence class.

## What happens if I do not attend a Parent Education Class?

In a divorce case, if a Certificate of Completion is not received within 180 days of the date of the filing of the Petition, the Petition will be dismissed. Certificates can be mailed or emailed to the Court. To file your certificate by email, use email address

FC_DivorceAncillary@delaware.gov. In a custody or visitation case, failure to attend the class may be considered in deciding the case or may result in the court dismissing the case.

## What Does It Cost?

Each program sets its own fee, but the fee may not be more than $100 per parent. The programs also offer financial aid.

## In a Custody or Visitation Case, When Do I Have to Take the Class?

The Petitioner and the Respondent must complete the class prior to the final hearing.

## How Will the Court Know I Have Completed the Program?

The teachers of each course will give you a certificate when you complete the program. You must give the original certificate to the Court.

## Can This Requirement Be Waived?

This requirement may be waived for good reason. If the Petitioner wants the Court to do so, he or she must file a Motion, asking the Court to waive the requirement and showing there is a good reason why he or she should not have to take the course. The generic motion form is available online and in the Resource Centers.

A party may also file a Motion requesting the Court recognize a comparable education program. The Motion must attach the program's curriculum. The generic motion form is available online and in the Resource Centers.

## Family Court Contact Information

| New Castle County | Kent County | Sussex County |
|---|---|---|
| 500 N. KING STREET | 400 COURT STREET | 100 EAST MARKET STREET |
| WILMINGTON, DE 19801 | DOVER, DE 19901 | GEORGETOWN, DE 19947 |
| (302) 255-0300 | (302) 672-1000 | (302) 855-7400 |

**For more information, visit the Family Court webpage or scan the QR code.**