



### **Who Must Attend?**

- All parents in divorce cases with children under the age of 18
- All parents who are a party to a custody or visitation proceeding

### **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.

### **Questions?**

Call Family Court

New Castle County:  
(302)255-0300

Kent County:  
(302)672-1000

Sussex County:  
(302)855-7400

A GUIDE TO PARENT EDUCATION IN THE FAMILY COURT

# **PARENT EDUCATION**

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

<https://courts.delaware.gov/family>

### **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 under the age of 18
- All parents who are a party to a custody or visitation proceeding

### **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. 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.