

**APPENDIX 29.3: COURT-SPECIFIC RULES CONCERNING PARENTING CLASSES**

COURT	PARISHES	COURT-SPECIFIC RULES CONCERNING PARENTING CLASSES
2 <sup>nd</sup> J.D.C.	Bienville, Claiborne, and Jackson Parishes	<p>A. In order to provide for the best interest of the children of parents who are involved in a contested custody matter, the parents shall participate in an educational program that is designed to make the parties more aware of the effects of separation and divorce upon their children and to acquaint them with methods of assisting minor children to cope with the stress of divorce and custody proceedings.</p> <p>B. All parties to a contested custody matter filed in the Court shall successfully complete the program "Helping Children Cope With Divorce". The parties shall promptly pay all fees associated with the program, as directed by the Court.</p> <p>C. The program shall be completed within sixty days of service of initial pleadings in the case and each party shall file a certificate of completion in the record.</p> <p>D. A party's failure to timely complete the program and/or pay all costs in connection therewith, shall subject the party to an appropriate action by the Court, including contempt of Court.</p> <p>E. The Court may waive the requirement of completion of the program, in individual cases, for good cause shown. The Court may also change the time by which the program shall be completed, in individual cases, for good cause shown.</p>
4 <sup>th</sup> J.D.C.	Morehouse and Ouachita Parishes	<p>A. The Court may require parties in cases involving the custody of minor children to participate in programs designed to acquaint the parents or parties with methods of assisting minor children in coping with the stress of divorce and custody proceedings. Divorce education may be ordered for any divorce proceeding where minor children reside with either of the divorcing parents whether or not custody or visitation is contested issues.</p> <p>B. A hearing officer may recommend mediation of custody and visitation, custody evaluation by a mental health professional, and/or alcohol and drug testing.</p> <p>C. Should any party fail to successfully complete any program or interview or fail to comply with any orders of the Court pursuant to this Rule, the Court may take appropriate action including, but not limited to, actions for contempt. For good cause, the Court may waive any requirement of completion in individual cases.</p>

8 <sup>th</sup> J.D.C.	Winn Parish	The court may require parties in cases involving the custody of the minor children to participate in programs designed to acquaint the parents or parties with methods of assisting minor children in coping with the stress of divorce and custody proceedings.
14 <sup>th</sup> J.D.C.	Calcasieu Parish	In cases involving the custody of minor children, the parties may be required to attend a parenting class. Any party who refuses to comply with the order of the Court to attend the parenting class shall be subject to sanctions for contempt of court.
15 <sup>th</sup> J.D.C.	Acadia, Lafayette, and Vermilion Parishes  Amended October 30, 2015, effective October 1, 2015.	<p>A. In order to provide for the best interest of the children of parents who are involved in a contested custody matter, the parents shall participate in an educational program that is designed to make the parties more aware of the effects of separation and divorce upon their children and to acquaint them with methods of assisting minor children to cope with the stress of divorce and custody proceedings.</p> <p>B. All parties to a contested custody matter filed in the Court shall successfully complete the program “TransParenting” course at The Family Tree. The parties shall promptly pay all fees associated with the program, as directed by the Court.</p> <p>C. The program shall be completed within sixty (60) days of service of initial pleadings in the case and each party shall file a certificate of completion in the record.</p> <p>D. A party's failure to timely complete the program and/or pay all costs in connection therewith, shall subject the party to an appropriate action by the Court, including contempt of Court.</p> <p>E. The Court may waive the requirement of completion of the program, in individual cases, for good cause shown. The Court may also change the time by which the program shall be completed or the location, in individual cases, for good cause shown.</p>
26 <sup>th</sup> J.D.C.	Bossier and Webster Parishes	<p>A. All petitions for incidental relief regarding child custody shall, in addition to an order for child custody, contain an order with blank dates, fixing dates and times for attendance by the domestic litigants at two parenting classes for each of the parties. The available dates for the classes shall be obtained from the office of the Clerk of Court. These parenting classes are offered through the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service and must be completed before final custody is awarded. The parties shall promptly pay all fees associated with the program, as directed by the Court.</p> <p>B. The program shall be completed within the timeframe set by the Court and each party shall file a certificate of completion in the record.</p> <p>C. A party's failure to timely complete the program and/or pay all costs in connection with the program shall subject the party</p>

		<p>to an appropriate action by the Court, including contempt of Court.</p> <p>D. The Court may waive the requirement of completion of the program, in individual cases, for good cause shown. The Court may also change the time by which the program shall be completed, in individual cases, for good cause shown.</p> <p>E. Prior to completion of the parenting classes, interim orders may be issued.</p>
36 <sup>th</sup> J.D.C.	Beauregard Parish	<p>In all divorce cases where the custody of minor children shall be the subject of any order of the Court, the parties shall be required to attend counseling relative to the General Responsibilities of Separating Parents (GRASP) prior to the granting of the judgment of divorce. No judgment of divorce shall be granted until the record in the case contains the appropriate counselor certifications of completion. Any party, who refuses to comply with the order of Court to attend the GRASP counseling sessions, shall be subject to sanctions for contempt of Court.</p>