

IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF  
CHATTAHOOCHEE, HARRIS, MARION, MUSCOGEE, TALBOT AND TAYLOR COUNTIES,  
STATE OF GEORGIA

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Ex Parte No. 16-461

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

**STANDING ORDER ON PARENTING SEMINARS**

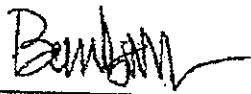
This Order revokes and replaces all previous orders and notice regarding Seminars for Divorcing Parents approved for us in domestic cases filed in the Superior Courts of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit. Pursuant to the inherent powers of these Courts, Uniform Superior Court Rule 24.8, and in the interest of providing for the speedy, efficient, and inexpensive resolution of disputes, it is hereby ordered that:

1. All parties involved in any divorce, separate maintenance, legitimation, or any other domestic relations action that involved an initial determination or modification of child custody are required to successfully complete a court-approved, certificate bearing, parenting seminar. Failure to complete the seminar within the time period set forth in this Order may subject a party to contempt or other sanctions, which may include suspension of visitation or custody rights.
2. A listing of all court approved seminar providers authorized under this Order is attached hereto as Exhibit "A." A copy of this Order and the attached Exhibit "A" shall be made available to filing parties, or their counsel, by the Clerk of Superior Court of the county in which the action is filed.
3. The filing party, or his or her counsel, shall serve a copy of this Order and the attached listing of all court-approved seminar providers upon each adverse party along with the underlying domestic pleading and summons.
4. Each party must successfully complete a court approved seminar within 31 days of service of the original complaint upon the defendant and the certificate must be filed with the Clerk of Superior Court before finalization.
5. In the event a party resides outside the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit, that party may petition the Court to accept a certificate of completion from a parenting seminar that is not on the court-approved list by providing a written verification that the seminar meets the following minimum requirements:
  - a. Four contact hours;
  - b. Focus on developmental needs of children;
  - c. Emphasis on fostering a child's emotional health during periods of stress;
  - d. Topics covered must include the developmental stages of childhood; reactions of children to divorce both generally and at specific ages; how divorce affects families; grief processes and coping skills; roles of divorced

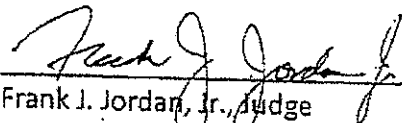
parents; co-parenting skills; financial obligations of parents; and mediation as a tool to resolve domestic disputes; an

- e. The program provides verification of successful completion of the seminar.
6. The parties may attend a seminar on different dates. In those cases where there have been allegations of domestic violence, the parties must attend seminars on different dates.
  7. Certificates of completion are valid for three years.
  8. Parties are responsible for paying their own registration fees for the seminar. Fees are to be paid directly to the seminar provider.
  9. For good cause shown, the assigned judge may waive the parenting seminar requirement, extend the time period for its completion, or require its repetition.
  10. Failure to comply with this Order may subject a party to contempt or other sanctions as the assigned Judge may deem appropriate.

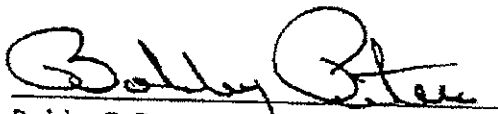
SO ORDERED, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.



Bemon G. McBride, III, Chief Judge  
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



Frank J. Jordan, Jr., Judge  
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit




Bobby G. Peters, Judge  
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



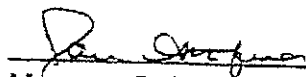
William C. Rumer, Judge  
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



Arthur L. Smith, III, Judge  
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



J. Ronald Mullins, Jr., Judge  
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



Maureen C. Gottfried, Judge  
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit

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EXHIBIT "A"

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\* Ex Parte No. 16-461

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COURT-APPROVED PARENTING SEMINAR PROVIDERS

The Family Center, Inc.  
1350 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus, GA 31902  
706-327-3238

Family Counseling Center of Georgia, Inc.  
277 MLK Jr. Boulevard West, Suite 203  
Macon, GA 31201  
478-745-2811

The Pastoral Institute  
2022 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus, GA 31901  
706-649-6500

Middle Flint Behavioral Health  
415 North Jackson Street  
Americus, GA 31709  
229-931-2504

Project Rebound, Inc.  
1130 Brown Avenue  
Columbus, GA 31906  
706-221-4830

Vision Foundation Counseling Ctr., Inc.  
1216 Whispering Pines Road  
Albany, GA 31707  
229-435-1729

Grandison Counseling & Healing Services  
233 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 745  
Columbus, GA 31901  
706-940-0819

ONLINE PARENTING PROGRAMS.COM  
[www.onlineparentingprograms.com](http://www.onlineparentingprograms.com)  
Online Co-Parenting/Divorce Class  
4-hour On-line class