

From: Trial Court Administrator, 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

To: Parties in a dissolution of marriage, annulment, legal separation, petition to establish custody or parenting time, and post-decree litigation involving custody or parenting time

**RE: NOTICE OF EDUCATION FOR DIVORCING PARENTS**

Pursuant to Columbia County's Supplemental Court Rule (SLR) 8.012 you are hereby notified that you are **required** to complete the Education for Divorcing Parents Class offered by court designated provider. A copy of SLR 8.012 is attached hereto.

Columbia County has one designated provider: Community Action Team which has two class locations: Rainier and St Helens. You **must** register for the class **within 15 days** of receiving notice of this education requirement. All parties **shall** complete the program before the initial pre-trial conference and before attending mandatory mediation sessions.

The Office of the Trial Court Administrator has provided you with two copies of this notice and attachments. By statute, it is the responsibility of the initiating party of this matter to serve this notice on all parties against whom relief is sought in the manner provided in ORCP 7. Usually the notice is served when the petition is served.

Crystal Reeves  
Trial Court Administrator

Attachment 1: SLR 8.012 Education for Divorcing Parents  
Attachment 2: Community Action Team Information Sheet and Application

**Due to the ongoing pandemic involving COVID-19, which requires people to maintain social distancing and avoid in-person gatherings, parties required to take a parenting class for their domestic relations case may attend one of the following online parenting classes:**

- Children in Between Divorce <http://www.divorce-education.com>
- Northwest Parenting <https://www.nwresd.org/departments/instructional-services/northwest-parenting>

*\*Please remember to print your proof of completion and file with the court*

#### 8.012 EDUCATION FOR DIVORCING PARENTS

(1) The following cases are subject to this rule: Annulment or dissolution of marriage actions, legal separation actions, petitions to establish custody or parenting, and post-judgment litigation involving custody or parenting time.

(2) All parties, where the interest of a child under the age of 18 years of age is involved, shall successfully complete the education for divorcing parents program offered by court-designated providers or a pre-approved alternative education program. Parties shall register for the program or make application for approval of an alternate program within 15 days of receiving notice of this education requirement. All parties shall complete the program before the initial pre-trial conference.

(3) Notice and information to the petitioner of the requirement that the parties complete the education program or alternative education program will be provided by the Trial Court Administrator when the petition is filed. The party initiating the proceeding shall register for the program within 15 days after filing the initiating pleading with the Court. A copy of this local rule and instructions on how to register for the program shall be served by the initiating party on all parties against whom relief is sought. Service shall be completed in the manner provided in ORCP 7 at the time the initiating documents are served. All other parties shall have 30 days after service of the notice upon them to register for the program.

(4) Each party shall pay a fee determined by the program provider to cover program costs. The fee may be waived if the party presents a verified affidavit of indigence to the court, and the party meets indigence guidelines.

(5) Each person who successfully completes the Court's program or the pre-approved alternative program shall present a certificate of completion to the judge at the pre-trial conference.

(6) Upon showing of good cause, a party may request a waiver of this rule. The request must be made by motion, supported by affidavit, and filed within 15 days of receipt of the Trial Court Administrator's notice.

(7) Court action on a petition shall not be delayed by a party's refusal or delay in completing the program unless the non-complying party is the petitioner or the moving party. Upon a party's failure to successfully complete the education program pursuant to this rule, the assigned judge may take appropriate action including, but not limited to, proceedings for contempt.