

26 | program that will provide general information regarding:

27 | 1. The issues and legal procedures for resolving time-
28 | sharing and child support disputes.

29 | 2. The emotional experiences and problems of divorcing
30 | adults.

31 | 3. The family problems and the emotional concerns and
32 | needs of the children.

33 | 4. The availability of community services and resources.

34 | (d) It is also beneficial to parents of children who have
35 | special needs or emotional concerns who are divorcing or
36 | separating to have available an educational program that will
37 | provide information tailored to children who have special needs
38 | and emotional concerns.

39 | (2) The Department of Children and Families shall approve
40 | a parenting course which must ~~shall~~ be ~~a course of~~ a minimum of
41 | 4 hours and designed to educate, train, and assist divorcing
42 | parents in regard to the consequences of divorce on parents and
43 | children.

44 | (a) The parenting course referred to in this section is
45 | ~~shall be~~ named the Parent Education and Family Stabilization
46 | Course and may include, but need not be limited to, the
47 | following topics as they relate to court actions between parents
48 | involving custody, care, time-sharing, and support of a child or
49 | children:

50 | 1. Legal aspects of deciding child-related issues between

51 | parents.

52 | 2. Emotional aspects of separation and divorce on adults.

53 | 3. Emotional aspects of separation and divorce on
54 | children.

55 | 4. Family relationships and family dynamics.

56 | 5. Financial responsibilities to a child or children.

57 | 6. Issues regarding spousal or child abuse and neglect.

58 | 7. Skill-based relationship education that may be
59 | generalized to parenting, workplace, school, neighborhood, and
60 | civic relationships.

61 | 8. Particularized needs of children who have identified
62 | special needs or emotional concerns.

63 | (4) (a) All parties to a dissolution of marriage proceeding
64 | with minor children or a paternity action that involves issues
65 | of parental responsibility are ~~shall be~~ required to complete the
66 | Parent Education and Family Stabilization Course before ~~prior to~~
67 | the entry by the court of a final judgment. If the parties have
68 | children who have identified special needs or emotional
69 | concerns, the parties must select a Parent Education and Family
70 | Stabilization Course that is tailored to education relating to
71 | children who have special needs and emotional concerns.

72 | (b) The court may excuse a party from attending the
73 | parenting course, or from completing the course within the
74 | required time, for good cause.

75 | (12) The court may, in its discretion, require a parent to

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76 | attend additional educational courses relating to children who
77 | have special needs and emotional concerns than what is required
78 | under this section.

79 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.