

IN THE 36<sup>TH</sup>, 156<sup>TH</sup> and 343<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT COURTS OF  
ARANSAS, BEE, LIVE OAK, MCMULLEN AND SAN PATRICIO COUNTIES  
ORDER REGARDING PERSONS SEEKING CONSERVATORSHIP IN  
FAMILY LAW CASES

Pursuant to the inherent powers of the court, and Section 105.009 of the Texas Family Code, the Courts hereby find that the best interest of the children of parties involved in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship, including an action to modify an order in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship providing for possession of or access to a child, hereby Orders that the parties so involved to successfully attend and complete a parent education and family stabilization course.

The parties to the suit are not required to attend the course together.

The course must be at least four (4) hours, but not more than twelve (12) hours, in length and be designed to educate and assist parents with regard to the consequences of divorce on parents and children. The course must include information on the following issues:

- (1) the emotional effects of divorce on parents;
- (2) the emotional and behavioral reactions to divorce by young children and adolescents;
- (3) parenting issues relating to the concerns and needs of children at different development stages;
- (4) stress indicators in young children and adolescents;
- (5) conflict management;
- (6) family stabilization through development of a co-parenting relationship;
- (7) the financial responsibilities of parenting;
- (8) family violence, spousal abuse, and child abuse and neglect; and
- (9) the availability of community services and resources.

The course satisfies the requirements of the Courts if it is offered by:

- (1) a mental health professional who has at least a master's degree with a background in family therapy or parent education; or
- (2) a religious practitioner who performs counseling consistent with the laws of this state or another person designated as a program counselor by a church or religious institution if the litigant so chooses.

Information obtained in a course or a statement made by a participant to a suit during a

course may not be considered in the adjudication of the suit or in any subsequent legal proceeding. Any report that results from participation in the course may not become a record in the suit unless the parties stipulate to the record in writing.

The court may take appropriate action with regard to a party who fails to attend or complete a course ordered by the court under this section, including holding the party in contempt of court, striking pleadings, or invoking any sanction provided by Rule 215, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. The failure or refusal by a party to attend or complete a course required by this section may not delay the court from rendering a judgment in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship.

The course required under this section may be completed by:

- (1) personal instruction;
- (2) videotape instruction;
- (3) instruction through an electronic medium; or
- (4) a combination of those methods

On completion of the course, the course provider shall issue a certificate of completion to each participant. The certificate must state:

- (1) the name of the participant;
- (2) the name of the course provider;
- (3) the date the course was completed; and
- (4) whether the course was provided by:
  - (A) personal instruction;
  - (B) videotape instruction;
  - (C) instruction through an electronic medium; or
  - (D) a combination of those methods.

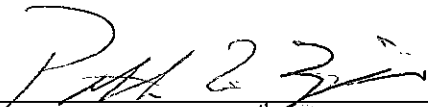
The course shall be successfully complete by the petitioner or movant within 31 days of filing of the original motion or complaint and by the respondent within 31 days of respondent's first appearance or by the filing of an answer or waiver by the respondent.

For good cause shown on Motion by a party, the assigned judge may waive the requirement of completion of this program in individual cases.

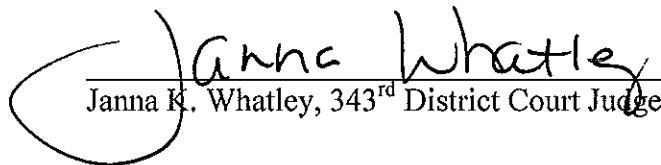
So Ordered this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.



Stair B. Bauer, 36<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge



Patrick L. Flanigan, 156<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge



Janna K. Whatley, 343<sup>rd</sup> District Court Judge