

#### WARE

Parents and Children in Divorce, Child & Family Services, Mary Lane Hospital, 85 South Street, (413) 737-4718, Contact: John Maloney

#### WATERTOWN

Families Divided, Divorcestep, Watertown High School, 50 Columbia St., (508) 358-7688, Contact: Michele Diamond, [www.divorcestep.com](http://www.divorcestep.com)

#### WEST SPRINGFIELD

Parents & Children in Divorce, Child & Family Service West Springfield Center  
425 Union St., Level D, (413) 737-4718, Contact: John Maloney

#### WESTBOROUGH

Divorce that Works for Children, Parenting Solutions, 6 Colonial Drive, (508) 366-7557,  
Contact: Sylvia Sirignano or Glenn Smith

Children Cope with Divorce, Burroughs JCC, 45 Oak Street, (508) 755-3101, Contact: Kristy Fiorillo.  
Website: [www.jfsworcester.org](http://www.jfsworcester.org) [2 sessions of 2.5 hours each]

#### WESTON

Families Divided, Divorcestep, Regis College, Upper Student Union, Alumnae Hall, 235 Wellesley St.,  
(508) 358-7688, Contact: Michele Diamond, [www.divorcestep.com](http://www.divorcestep.com)

#### WORCESTER

Parents Apart, University of Mass. Medical Center, 55 Lake Avenue North, (508) 793-6336, Contact:  
Michele Eberhart

Children Cope with Divorce, Jewish Family Service of Worcester, 646 Salisbury St.,  
(508) 755-3101, Contact: Kristy Fiorillo, Website: [www.jfsworcester.org](http://www.jfsworcester.org) [2 sessions of 2.5 hours  
each]

Parents Apart, Family Services of Central Massachusetts, 31 Harvard St., (508) 756-4646,  
Contact: Intake Department, Website: [www.fscm.org](http://www.fscm.org)

Consider the Children, Divorce Education, Inc., Relationship Institute @ 6 Melville Street, (508) 435-  
4745 or (508) 853-7373, Contact: Diane Ferkler or Samuel Chiancola

#### \*\*\*Programs Offered in Spanish

#### BEVERLY

Parent Education and Custody Effectiveness-PEACE, North Shore Counseling Center, 23 Broadway,  
(978) 922-2280, Contact: Linda Migdole, Website: [www.nscpcpsyc.org](http://www.nscpcpsyc.org)

#### FITCHBURG

Reducing the Effects of Divorce, Children's Aid & Family Service, Fitchburg Fire Dept. 33 North  
Street, (978) 534-5218, Contact: Family Counseling Center, Website: [www.sevenhills.org](http://www.sevenhills.org)

#### LAWRENCE

Divorce & Its Impact on Children's Development, Northern Essex Community College,  
45 Franklin Street, (978) 745-7808, Contact: Madeline Segal

#### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT

#### STANDING ORDER 4-08 PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

*This court finds that the interests of the minor children of parties appearing before it would be well served by educating their parents about children's emotional needs and the effects of divorce on child behavior and development.*

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

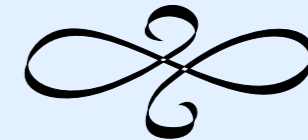
1. All parties to a divorce action in which there are minor children, are ordered to attend and participate in an approved Parent Education Program (hereinafter, program) except as herein provided. This requirement applies to divorces brought under Ch. 208 sec. 1 (fault divorces); and Ch. 208 secs. 1A and 1B (irretrievable breakdown) and as ordered by a judge of this court in an action to establish paternity, complaints for modification or contempt or in any case involving visitation, custody, or support of minor children.
2. Attendance at an approved program is mandatory for parties to such actions unless waived by the court. Parties must register with an approved provider within sixty days (60) days of service of the original complaint upon the original defendant and attend the next available session.
3. No Pre-trial Conference or Trial will be held by the court until the court receives a certificate of attendance from an approved program for each party, or waives the requirement. An uncontested divorce hearing may be scheduled pending attendance if the parties file confirmations of registration with the court and so long as both parties complete the program prior to the hearing. A Pre-Trial Conference in a contested case may be similarly scheduled so long as the parties complete the program prior to the Pre-Trial Conference.
4. The court may waive the attendance requirement upon motion, with notice, for one or both parties. Waivers will only be granted upon a demonstrable showing of chronic and severe violence which negates safe parental communication; language barriers; institutionalization or other unavailability of a party; failure of the other party to complete a program; unavailability of an approved program in the county in which the original divorce brought under Ch. 208 sec. 1 and Ch. 208 secs. 1A and 1B was filed; or where justice otherwise indicates.
5. Sanctions for failure to register with an approved program within sixty (60) days of service of the original complaint upon the original defendant may be imposed by the court.
6. The parties must attend programs approved by the Chief Justice of the Probate and Family Court. Attendance at an approved program, wherever held within the Commonwealth, is permissible. Programs which are not approved by the Chief Justice will not satisfy the attendance requirement. Program vendors will ensure that parties to an action do not attend the same session of any program. Lists of approved programs shall be available at all Registries of Probate and at <http://www.state.ma.us/courts/courtsandjudges/courts/probateandfamilycourt/selfhelp.html>
7. A pamphlet entitled Parent Education Programs: Understanding the Effect of Divorce on Children, which lists the approved program providers shall be given to the plaintiff or his/her attorney upon the filing of a complaint for divorce involving minor children. The plaintiff or his/her attorney shall serve a copy of said pamphlet along with the complaint and summons to the person authorized to make service pursuant to Mass.R.Dom.Rel.P. 4(c).
8. The parties shall each pay \$80.00 to the provider in advance of the program to offset the cost of materials and facilitators.
9. A party may pay a reduced fee of \$5.00 to the provider if that party has submitted and had allowed an "Affidavit of Indigency and Request for Waiver, Substitution or State Payment of Fees and Costs." This form is prescribed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court pursuant to G.L. c. 261, § 27B, promulgated March, 2003 and is available at the Registry of the Probate and Family Court. The party must submit a copy of this form to the provider when registering for a program at a reduced fee of \$5.00.
10. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the authority of any Probate and Family Court justice to order parties to attend an approved program in any case involving visitation, custody, or support of minor children.
11. All information submitted in compliance with the research component of the program shall be the work product of the Probate and Family Court Administrative Office. The material is for research purposes only and shall not be discoverable.

April 2008

Paula M. Carey  
Chief Justice

## PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### Understanding the Effect of Divorce on Children



**PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
John Adams Courthouse  
One Pemberton Square  
Boston, MA 02108  
<http://www.mass.gov/courts>**

REVISED APRIL 2011

**Approved Program Providers**

All programs are 2 sessions of 2 ½ hrs each unless noted otherwise

**ACTON**

Changing Families, Changing Times, Boundaries Therapy Center, Clubhouse at Nagog Condominiums, (978) 263-4878 extension 230, Contact: Helen Frey

**AGAWAM**

Parent Education Program, Behavioral Health Network, Agawam Counseling Center, 30 Southwick St., Feeding Hills (413) 786-6410, Contact: Coordinator

**ATTLEBORO**

Parents Forever, Family Service Assoc., Arbour Fuller Hospital, 200 May St., (508) 677-3822, Contact: Sue Roque, Website: [www.frfsa.org](http://www.frfsa.org) [2 sessions of 3 hours each]

**AUBURN**

Parents Forever, Pakachoag Church, 203 Pakachoag Street, (508) 798-6699, Contact: Karen Feeney, Website: [www.eastpointservices.com](http://www.eastpointservices.com)

**BEVERLY**

\*\*Parent Education and Custody Effectiveness-PEACE, North Shore Counseling Center, 23 Broadway, (978) 922-2280, Contact: Linda Migdole, Website: [www.nscpsyc.org](http://www.nscpsyc.org)

**BILLERICA**

Divorce and Its Impact on Children's Development, First Parish Church, 7 Concord Road, (978) 745-7808, Contact: Madeline Segal

**BOSTON**

Parents Apart, Family Healthy Choices, Massachusetts General Hospital, Yawkey Bldg. Suite 10-660, Conference Room E, (978) 887-6342, Contact: Steven Nisenbaum, Website: [www.familyhealthychoices.org](http://www.familyhealthychoices.org)

**BRAINTREE**

Parents Apart, Divorce Center, Inc., Braintree Health South Hospital, 250 Pond Street, (888) 434-8787, Contact: Coordinator, Website: [www.divorcecenter.org](http://www.divorcecenter.org)

**BROCKTON**

Parents Apart, Mass Bay Counseling, Massasoit Community College, 1 Massasoit Avenue, (617) 786-3027, Contact: Amy Crissinger

"Set a Good Example" (SAGE) Northeast Health Services, 231 Main Street, (800) 339-2204, Contact: Jean Adams or Nelson Cardona (2 sessions, First session 2 hours, Second 3 hours)

**BROOKLINE**

For the Sake of the Children, Center for Families in Transition, Brookline PDHQ, 350 Washington Street, (617) 492-7245 or 857-373-9011, Contact: Robin Zucker, Website: [www.cftclass.org](http://www.cftclass.org) or Email: [parentclass@yahoo.com](mailto:parentclass@yahoo.com)

Parenting Through Divorce: Supporting the Child, Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis, 1581 Beacon Street, (617) 277-3915, Contact: William Sharp, Website: [www.bgsp.edu](http://www.bgsp.edu)

**CAMBRIDGE**

For the Sake of the Children, Center for Families in Transition, Cambridge College, 1000 Mass. Ave., (617) 492-7245 or 857-373-9011, Contact: Robin Zucker, Website: [www.cftclass.org](http://www.cftclass.org) or Email: [parentclass@yahoo.com](mailto:parentclass@yahoo.com)

**CHELMSFORD**

Moving Forward, Life Transitions, Inc. 10 Billerica Road, (978) 649-6255, Contact: Robert DiMeo, Website: [www.lifetransitionsinc.net](http://www.lifetransitionsinc.net)

**CHICOPEE**

Parents Apart, Elm's College, Berchmans Hall, 291 Springfield Street, (413) 783-2202, Contact: Judith Haggerty

**DANVERS**

Parents Apart, Family Healthy Choices, Peabody Inst. Library, 15 Sylvan Street, (978) 887-6342, Contact: Steven Nisenbaum, Website: [www.familyhealthychoices.org](http://www.familyhealthychoices.org)

**DARTMOUTH**

Parents Forever, UMASS Dartmouth, McLean Center, 285 Old Westport Road, No. Dartmouth, (508) 677-3822, Contact: Sue Roque, Website: [www.frfsa.org](http://www.frfsa.org)

**DEDHAM**

Parents Apart, Child & Family Psychological Services, Inc., Dedham Community Association, 671 High Street, (781) 551-0999 ext. 503, Contact: Coordinator, Website: [www.cfpsych.org](http://www.cfpsych.org)

Focusing on Our Children Divorce Education Services, Dedham Community House, 671 High Street, (781) 237-5064, Contact: Ann Steele

**FALL RIVER**

Parents Forever, Family Service Association, 101 Rock Street, (508) 677-3822, Contact: Sue Roque, Website: [www.frfsa.org](http://www.frfsa.org) [2 sessions of 3 hours each]

**FITCHBURG**

Reducing the Effects of Divorce, Children's Aid & Family Service, Fitchburg Fire Dept. 33 North Street, (978) 345-4147, Contact: Family Counseling Center, Website: [www.sevenhills.org](http://www.sevenhills.org)

Reducing the Effects of Divorce, Children's Aid and Family Service, Fitchburg Chamber of Commerce, 1460 John Fitch. Highway, (978) 345-4147, Contact: Family Counseling Center, Website: [www.sevenhills.org](http://www.sevenhills.org)

**FRAMINGHAM**

Consider the Children, Divorce Education, Inc., Mass Bay Community College, 19 Flagg Drive, (508) 435-4745, Contact: Diane Ferkler or Samuel Chiancola

**GARDNER**

Reducing the Effects of Divorce, Children's Aid & Family Service, 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church, 100 Colony Road, (978) 345-4147, Contact: Family Counseling Center, Website: [www.sevenhills.org](http://www.sevenhills.org)

**GREENFIELD**

Families in Transition (FIT), Franklin County Bar Association, Franklin Medical Center, 164 High St., (413) 773-9839, Contact: Katie Schendel, Website: [www.franklincountybar.org](http://www.franklincountybar.org)

**HANOVER**

Parents Apart, Marvista Psychological Associates, PC, South Shore Vocational High School, (781) 383-0860, Contact: Selma Ingber or Charles Mundhenk, Website: [www.marvistapsych.com](http://www.marvistapsych.com)

**HAVERTHILL**

Positive Co-Parenting in Difficult Times, Psychotherapy Associates of North Reading, Northern Essex Community College, 100 Elliot St., (978) 664-2566, ext. 5 Contact: Dr. Donna Whipple, Website: [www.panr.net](http://www.panr.net)

**HYANNIS**

\*Set A Good Example (SAGE), MSPCC, 206 Breeds Hill Road, (508) 775-0275, Contact: Kirsten Abrahamson, [2 sessions 5:30 - 8 each

Parents Apart Mass. Bay Counseling, 455 Iyanough Rd., VFW Post 2578, (617) 786-3027, Contact: Amy Crossinger

**LAWRENCE**

Divorce & Its Impact on Children's Development, Northern Essex Community College, 45 Franklin Street, (978) 745-7808, Contact: Madeline Segal

Putting Children First, Family Service, Inc., Merrimack College, (978) 683-9505, Contact: Intake Worker, Website: [www.familyserviceinc.com](http://www.familyserviceinc.com)

**LEXINGTON**

Parents Apart, Lexington Institute, Inc., 3 Militia Drive, (781) 860-0600, Contact Dr. Paul Bombara

**LITTLETON**

Moving Forward, Life Transitions, Inc., 461 King St., (978) 649-6255, Contact: Robert DiMeo, Website: [www.lifetransitionsinc.net](http://www.lifetransitionsinc.net)

**LOWELL**

Divorce & Its Impact on Children's Development, Pawtucket Congregational Church, 15 Mammoth Road (978) 745-7808, Contact: Madeline Segal

**LYNN**

Divorce and Its Impact on Children's Development, Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Community Room, 10 Church Street, (978) 745-7808, Contact: Madeline Segal

**MARLBOROUGH**

Consider the Children, Divorce Education Inc., Marlborough High School, 431 Bolton Street, (508) 435-4745, Contact: Diane Ferkler or Samuel Chiancola

**MEDFORD**

Positive Co-Parenting in Difficult Times, Psychotherapy Associates of North Reading, Medford High School, 489 Winthrop St., (978) 664-2566, ext. 5 Contact: Dr. Donna Whipple, Website: [www.panr.net](http://www.panr.net)

**MELROSE**

Divorce and Its Impact on Children's Development, Melrose Highlands, Congregational Church, 355 Franklin St., (978) 745-7808, Contact: Madeline Segal

**MILFORD**

Consider the Children, Divorce Education, Inc., Milford High School, 31 West Fountain St., (508) 435-4745 or (508) 473-4674, Contact: Diane Ferkler or Samuel Chiancola

**NEEDHAM**

Focusing on Our Children, Divorce Education Services, Deaconess-Glover Hospital, 148 Chestnut St., (781) 237-5064, Contact: Ann Steele

**NEWBURYPORT**

Parents Apart, Family Healthy Choices, Nock Middle School, 70 Low Street, (978) 887-6342, Contact: Steven Nisenbaum, Website: [www.familyhealthychoices.org](http://www.familyhealthychoices.org)

**NORTH READING**

Positive Co-Parenting in Difficult Times, Psychotherapy Assoc. of North Reading, E. Little School, 7 Barberry Lane, (978) 664-2566, ext. 5 Contact: Dr. Donna Whipple, Website: [www.panr.net](http://www.panr.net)

**NORTHAMPTON**

Parents and Children in Transition (PACT), Hampshire County Bar Association, Hall of Records Community Room, 33 King St., (413) 586-4597, Contact: Rebecca Ryan

**NORTHBRIDGE**

Parents Forever, Whitinsville Community Center, 60 Main Street, (508) 798-6699, Contact: Karen Feeney, Website: [www.eastpointservices.com](http://www.eastpointservices.com)

**NORWOOD**

Parents Apart, Child & Family Psychological Services, Inc., Dr. Philip Coakley Middle School in library, 1315 Washington Street., or Norwood Education Center/Savage Center, 275 Prospect Street, Room 218/219, (781) 551-0999, Contact: Coordinator, Website: [www.cfpsych.org](http://www.cfpsych.org)

**OAK BLUFFS**

Parents Apart, 111 Edgartown Road., (508) 693-7900 ext. 225, Contact: Joanne DeBettencourt, Website: [www.mvcommunityservices.com](http://www.mvcommunityservices.com)

**PITTSFIELD**

Families in Transition, Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, 333 East Street, (413) 629-1061, Contact: Intake Coordinator, Karen Wasileski

**PLYMOUTH**

Parents Apart, Marvista Psychological Associates, PC, Plymouth North High School, 41 Obery Street, (781) 383-0860, Contact: Selma Ingber or Charles Mundhenk Website: [www.marvistapsych.com](http://www.marvistapsych.com)

**QUINCY**

Parents Apart, Mass Bay Counseling, Quincy High School, 52 Coddington St., (617) 786-3027, Contact: Amy Crissinger

**SALEM**

Divorce & Its Impact on Children's Development, St. Peters Church, 24 St. Peter St., (978) 745-7808, Contact: Madeline Segal

**SANDWICH**

For the Sake of the Children, Center for Families in Transition, Sandwich Library, 142 Main Street, (617) 492-7245 or 857-373-9011 Contact: Robin Zucker, [www.cftclass.org](http://www.cftclass.org) or Email: [parentclass@yahoo.com](mailto:parentclass@yahoo.com)

**SOUTHBRIDGE**

Parents Apart, George B. Wells Human Service Center, Harrington Memorial Hospital, 29 Pine St., (508) 765-9167, Contact: Coordinator

**SPRINGFIELD**

Parent Education Program, Behavioral Health Network, Child Guidance Clinic, 110 Maple St., (413) 732-7419, Contact: Coordinator

Parents & Children in Divorce, Child and Family Service of Pioneer Valley, Inc., Baystate Health, 3300 Main Street, (413) 737-4718, Contact: John Maloney

Parents in Cooperation, Square One, 947 Main Street, (413)-735-1719, Contact: Barry Krimsky

**TAUNTON**

\*Family Service Association, Taunton Galleria Mall Silver City, Community Room, 2 Galleria Mall Drive, (508) 677-3822, Contact: Sue Roque, Website: [www.frfsa.com](http://www.frfsa.com) [2 sessions of 3 hours each]

**WAKEFIELD**

Partners for Positive Co-Parenting, Riverside Community Care, 328 Main Street, Suite 304 (781) 246-2010, Contact: Coordinator

**WALTHAM**

Parents Apart, Divorce Center, Inc., West Suburban Chamber of Commerce, 84 South St., (888) 434-8787, Contact: Coordinator, Website: [www.divorcecenter.org](http://www.divorcecenter.org)

