

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, DARKE COUNTY, OHIO
Greenville, Ohio 45331 (937) 547-7325

TRAVIS L. FLIEHMAN, Judge

BRITTANY M. JOHNS, Magistrate

NOTICE TO ATTEND PARENTING PROGRAM

(Local Rule 7G)

You are a party to a domestic relations action in which issues of parental rights and responsibilities are to be determined. In order to assist the Court in making the best decision for the children and in an attempt to minimize the negative impact this matter may have on your children, the Court requires the parties to attend a program which provides information on how the parents' separation affects their children, and which teaches ways to minimize problems in the future. The program is intended to benefit all parties equally, but it is your children who benefit the most from your participation.

You are required to complete a program prior to the Court hearing and deciding your case. Your attendance is required by local court rule as authorized by state statutes and Supreme Court Rules. If you fail to attend, you may be found in contempt of court for which you may receive a jail sentence and/or a fine. In addition, your failure to attend may be considered by the Court when issues of custody or visitation are determined.

After completing a program, it is necessary to file with the Clerk of Courts your certificate of completion. This certificate must be provided by the program and verifies your satisfactory completion of the parenting program.

Program at the Ohio State University Extension Office

A program is held on rotating dates each month at the Ohio State University Extension Office, 603 Wagner Avenue, Greenville, Ohio. There is a fee of \$35.00 per person which is payable one week in advance of the date you attend. You should arrive ten minutes prior to the session. You must be present during the entire program. If you are late, you will not be admitted; if you leave early, you will not receive a certificate. Call the Extension Office at (937) 548-5215 to register for the program or to obtain further information.

Programs Sponsored by Faith Based Organizations

Various faith based programs are available to fulfill the obligations of the Court. These programs may require different time commitments and financial charges. Individuals interested in faith-based programs are encouraged to inquire with the program and then verify that the content will meet the Court's requirements. Approved faith-based programs include: (1) *Children in the Middle*, c/o Catholic Social Services, Sidney, Ohio 937-498-4593; and (2) *Divorce Care*, offered by various area churches on a periodic basis. These programs may also provide counseling and education for children of the parties.