

IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF BARROW AND JACKSON COUNTIES
PIEDMONT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA

FILED
SUPERIOR COURT
JACKSON COUNTY GA
2025 JUN -5 AM 9:33
CAMIE W THOMAS, CLERK

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING
SEMINAR FOR DIVORCING PARENTS**

Pursuant to the inherent powers of this Court and Uniform Superior Court Rule 1.2 and in keeping with the Uniform Superior Court Rule 24.8, this Standing Order is entered. This Order supersedes all previous orders entered by the Court with regard to this subject matter.

Section 1: This Standing Order applies to all parties in all divorce actions filed in the Superior Courts of Barrow and Jackson Counties on or after the date hereof where the interests of children under the age of 18 years of age are involved. All parties shall successfully complete a program entitled "Seminar for Divorcing Parents", conducted by Family Counseling Services of Athens.

Section 2: This seminar shall be successfully completed within 60 days of service of the original complaint upon the defendant or within such time period as described by the assigned judge. Any party required to attend the seminar who fails to do so may be held in contempt of Court. A party's refusal or delay in completing the seminar shall not delay the Court's action on the petition.

Section 3: The Seminar will be held at the Jackson County Historic Courthouse located at 85 Washington Street, Jefferson, Georgia. The Grand Jury Room of the Jackson County Courthouse located at 5000 Jackson Parkway, Jefferson, Georgia, may serve as an alternate location.

Section 4: Attendees shall schedule their times of attendance through the Clerk of Court. Opposing parties in a case will not be scheduled to attend on the same night. Attendees shall present themselves for registration at the seminar location no later than 6:20 PM. Attendees are responsible for the registration fee for the program in the amount of \$35.00 in cash. Persons who prefer to attend the Elberton, Monroe or Athens location shall schedule their time of attendance through the Clerk of Court. The counseling service does not schedule or reschedule attendance dates. All scheduling is to be done through the Clerk of Court.

Section 5: Parties residing outside of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit may attend a similar program in another judicial jurisdiction.

Section 6: A party may be excused from live, in person attendance, and instead complete an approved online course by making a written application to the assigned judge, subject to approval by the Court under the following circumstances:

1. Where a party is in therapy or counseling with a registered therapist or counselor;
2. Where a party is laboring under a physical or mental disability;

MB3, PP 180-181

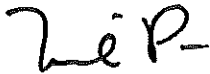
3. Where attendance interferes with such party's working schedule to the extent of creating undue hardships;
4. Where a party resides more than 50 miles from the Jackson County Courthouse and a similar program does not exist within a reasonable distance;
5. Where a party has need for the class in a non-English language; or
6. Other good cause.

Section 7: A party desiring to complete a certified online course in lieu of live attendance must make a written request for such to the assigned judge.

Section 8: The Court may waive or reduce the payment of the \$35.00 fee upon written application by the party to the Court. Such application must be made at least 3 days prior to the party's scheduled attendance date.

Section 9: This Order shall be filed in the minutes of the Superior Court of Barrow and Jackson Counties, Georgia.

SO ORDERED this 27th day of May, 2025.



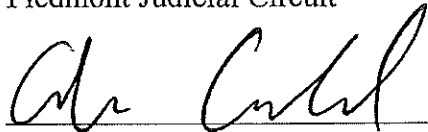
Nicholas Primm, Chief Judge
Piedmont Judicial Circuit



Benjamin Green, Judge
Piedmont Judicial Circuit



Sarah J. Griffie, Judge
Piedmont Judicial Circuit



Andrew Crawford, Judge
Piedmont Judicial Circuit