

IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF BANKS, BARROW and JACKSON COUNTIES
PIEDMONT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA

STANDING ORDER
SEMINAR FOR DIVORCING PARENTS

FILED
SUPERIOR COURT
BARROW COUNTY, GA
2022 MAR 21 AM 11:19
JENNIE J. JOHNSON, CLERK

Pursuant to the inherent powers of this Court and Uniform Superior Court Rule 1.2 and in keeping with 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 Banks, Barrow or Jackson Counties on or after the 1st day of April, 2022 where the interest of children under the age of 18 years old 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 prescribed 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 Courthouse located at 5000 Jackson Parkway, Jefferson, Georgia, and unless relocated, in the Grand Jury Room.

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 p.m. 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 any 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.
3. Where attendance interferes with such party's working schedule to the extent of creating undue hardship.

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.
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.

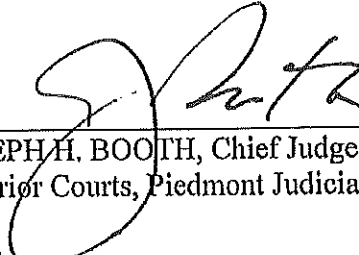
Section 8. The Court may waive or reduce the payment of the \$35.00 fee upon written application by the party to the Court. Such application must be made at least 3 days prior to the party's scheduled attendance date.

Section 9. The Judges may designate a program coordinator to monitor and assist in implementing the program.

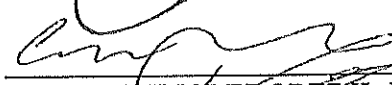
Section 10. The Sheriff of Jackson County will provide at least one deputy as security at each session of the program.

Section 11. This order shall be filed in the minutes of the Superior Court of Banks, Barrow and Jackson Counties, Georgia.

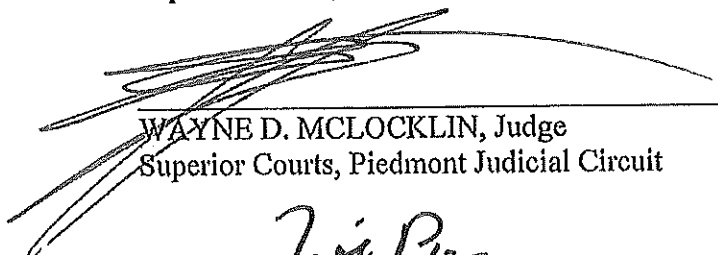
SO ORDERED this 18th day of March, 2022.




JOSEPH H. BOOTH, Chief Judge
Superior Courts, Piedmont Judicial Circuit



CURRIE MINGLE DORFF II, Judge
Superior Courts, Piedmont Judicial Circuit



WAYNE D. MCLOCKLIN, Judge
Superior Courts, Piedmont Judicial Circuit



NICHOLAS PRIMM, Judge
Superior Courts Piedmont Judicial Circuit