

What Is Parent Education?

Parents have a great deal of control over how their children come through the separation or divorce process and whether they develop into healthy, well-adjusted individuals. Parent education is offered to help separating or divorcing parents better understand the effects of their breakup on their children and to give them information and ideas about how to make the new family situation easier and more livable for themselves and their children.

How Do I Get in Touch With a Parent Education Program?

A List of Certified Parent Education Programs with contact information should be provided to you with this brochure or can be found in the Court Clerk's Office or on the New York State Parent Education website at www.nycourts.gov/ip/parent-ed.

Can a Judge Refer Me to Attend Parent Education?

You can be referred to attend parent education if you are the parent of a child under the age of eighteen and you are involved in a custody,

visitation, divorce, separation, annulment or child support court action or proceeding. You should not be referred to attend parent education, however, when any of the following circumstances are present:

- pending family offense proceeding or criminal action involving the abuse of one parent by the other
- temporary or permanent order of protection with a provision that one of the parents must stay away from the other parent.

When and How Can I Be Excused from Attending Parent Education?

When safety is an issue, the choice whether to attend is yours. If you are a victim of domestic violence and feel that it is not safe for you to attend parent education, you should check off the "opt out" provision on the Referral to Parent Education form that you are given in court and mail it to the address on the back of the form.

If you need more information before making your decision, you can contact the administrator of a certified parent education program (Program Administrator). The Program

Administrator may ask you questions or ask you to complete a form that asks certain questions. *Any information that you provide to the Program Administrator or even that you contacted the Program Administrator is confidential and will not be shared with anyone.*

If you have other special circumstances that make attendance inappropriate or difficult, you should contact a Program Administrator. Based on the information that you provide, the Program Administrator may find that you are ineligible to attend parent education. In certain circumstances, however, the Program Administrator may be able to provide assistance to make it possible for you to attend and, in such a case, you will not be excused from attending.

The names and contact information for the Program Administrator(s) in your area are set forth in the *List of Certified Parent Education Programs* that should be given to you with this brochure or that can be obtained from the Court Clerk's Office or from the New York State Parent Education website at: www.nycourts.gov/ip/parent-ed

Can I Attend Parent Education Even If I Am Not Referred By the Court?

It depends on the policy of the program. You should contact the parent education program that you wish to attend to find out its policy.

Some parent education programs will only accept parents who have been referred to attend by the court. However, many parent education programs are open to parents who voluntarily choose to attend or who have been referred to parent education by an attorney, psychologist, counselor, mediator, pediatrician, member of the clergy, school counselor or others.

What Is the Cost to Attend Parent Education?

The cost depends on the parent education program that you attend. Each program sets its fee. The fee cannot be more than \$100.00 per person.

You may qualify for a scholarship to attend with no fee or a reduced fee. Contact the parent education program that you wish to attend for its fee and scholarship information.

When and Where Are Parent Education Classes Held and Is There Security At the Site?

Contact the parent education program that you wish to attend for more information about class location and the dates and times classes are offered. Parent education programs certified by the NYS Office of Court Administration through the Parent Education Board have a safety plan or security at the class site. The parent education program can give you more information in this regard.

Who Do I Contact with a Complaint, Suggestion or Question About Parent Education?

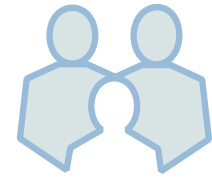
You may contact the Parent Education Board with questions, complaints or suggestions at:

Parent Education Board

140 Grand Street, Suite 701
White Plains, New York 10601

(888) 809-2798 (toll free)

nyparent-ed@courts.state.ny.us
www.nycourts.gov/ip/parent-ed



NEW YORK STATE PARENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAM



PARENT EDUCATION

HELP FOR SEPARATING OR DIVORCING PARENTS