

**ADOPTED 04282016**

**RULE DR 9. COURT-ORDERED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN ACTIONS WHERE  
MINOR CHILDREN ARE INVOLVED**

In addition to the requirements set forth in 43 O.S. Section 107.2 and pursuant to 43 O.S. Section 107.2 (C) of the statute, this Court adopts the following local rule:

1. The seminar provider shall use a presenting team, comprised of professionals, one male and one female, both with master's degrees or higher.
2. The seminar provider shall request the participants give their name and court case number. For those participants who provide the information, the seminar provider shall send verification of the participant's attendance to the Court.
3. The seminar provider will arrange for on-site, professionally licensed security at all times, from immediately prior to, during, and after each seminar.
4. The provider must offer a service that allows one party to attend the seminar at a time when the other parent is not attending, if so requested.
5. The provider must be approved by the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and must be a licensed provider of a curriculum approved by the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.
6. In addition to and supplementing the required statutory components, the following topics are to be covered in a four (4) hour seminar through the use of video, role playing, lecture and discussion:
  - a. The divorcing process, with emphasis on the emotional stages of divorce;
  - b. The changing parent-child relationship following divorce;
  - c. The developmental stages of children, and the particular needs of children in each of those stages;
  - d. How to tell children about divorce;
  - e. Developing a co-parenting plan;
  - f. Conflict management and dispute resolution;
  - g. Stress indicators in children;
  - h. Financial obligations of child-rearing;

- i. Learning how to negotiate in ways that enhance the adjustment of the children to the separation of their parents;
  - j. What behavior parents can expect from their children—what is normal, what is not;
  - k. How to help children make the transition from living with both parents to living alternately with their parents, or living with one parent and visiting with the other.
7. Upon a party's failure to successfully complete the seminar pursuant to the statute and this rule, the Judge assigned to the case may take appropriate action, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a. The Court may decline to hear the petition, application, motion or other request for relief of the party who fails to complete the program, and may decline to hear future requests for relief pending completion of this program;
  - b. The Court may consider a party's failure to attend and complete the program as a factor in determining the best interest of the child;
  - c. The Court's action on a petition, application, motion or request for relief will not be delayed by a non-moving or responding party's refusal or delay in completing the seminar; and
  - d. The assigned Judge may waive attendance of the seminar for good cause shown.