

RULE 1930. MANDATORY FOUR HOUR EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

- (a) In all Custody, Divorce or Annulment actions in which the parties have children under the age of 18 and where a Demand for Hearing De Novo Before the Court involving child support has been filed, except for the exclusions listed below, the parties shall complete a four hour educational seminar (Seminar for Families in Change and Conflict) if a party has not attended the Seminar in the prior twelve (12) months and in such other cases as the Court may order.
- (b) In Divorce or Annulment actions in which the parties have children under the age of 18, the Plaintiff shall attend the Seminar within forty five (45) days of filing and the Defendant shall attend the Seminar within forty five (45) days from service of the complaint.
- (c) In custody actions, other than Petitions for Special Relief (Emergency Custody Petitions) and Contempt, all parties must attend the Seminar before the date of their Custody Conference.
- (d) In a Petition for Contempt or a Petition for Special Relief (Emergency Custody) or other similar Custody actions, the parties shall attend the Seminar as ordered by the Court.
- (e) In Demands for Hearing De Novo Before the Court involving child support, the parties shall attend the Seminar prior to the hearing before the Court except in Children and Youth Appeals, emancipation cases and cases where the obligor has no assets.
- (f) The fee for the Seminar must be submitted to the Provider on the date of attendance in accordance with the instructions contained in the information sheet provided to all parties with their Seminar Attendance Order.
- (g) If the parties have not attended the Seminar prior to their Custody Conference, the Custody Conference Officer shall provide the party with another date or time to attend the Seminar and such Order will be filed with the Prothonotary's Office.
- (h) If the Custody Conference Officer recommends that it would be in the child(ren)'s best interests for a party's paramour or other adult who resides in the household or has a strong role in the parenting of the child(ren) to attend the Seminar, the Court may enter an Order requiring their attendance at the Seminar.
- (i) No Parenting Plan/Custody Order will be entered or Divorce or Annulment Decree granted in cases where the parties have children under the age of eighteen (18) until all parties have completed the Seminar, unless this requirement is waived by the Court for good cause shown.

- (j) Failure to attend the Seminar may be considered as Contempt of Court punishable by fine and other appropriate sanctions.