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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
EFFINGHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

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ELIZABETH Z. LUSKEY
CLERK E.C.S.D.

IN RE: SEMINAR FOR DIVORCING PARENTS

ORDER

Pursuant to the inherent powers of this Court and in order to provide for the speedy, efficient and inexpensive resolution of disputes it is hereby ordered:

Section 1: This order applies to all parties with minor children (under the age of 18) in all divorces, separate maintenance, paternity, change of custody, child support, visitation, legitimation and other domestic relations actions as may be otherwise ordered by the Court, excluding domestic violence actions brought under the Family Violence Act, U.R.E.S.A. cases, uncontested visitation modifications, and uncontested child support modification. This order applies to the actions as stated above filed on or after January 1, 2001.

Section 2: It is hereby ordered that all parties shall successfully complete the program entitled "Seminar for Divorcing Parents." This three hour educational seminar focuses on the developmental needs of children, with emphasis on fostering the child's emotional health during periods of stress. The program is informative, supportive and directs people desiring additional information or help to appropriate resources. Topics covered include: 1) developmental stages of childhood; 2) reaction of children to divorce, generally and at specific ages; 3) how divorce affects families; 4) grief processes and coping skill; 5) roles of divorced parents; 6) co-parenting skills; 7) financial obligations of parents; and 8) mediation as a tool to resolve domestic disputes.

Section 3: Attendance is required of all parties to a case where the interests of children under the age of 18 are involved. The seminar must be successfully completed within 31 days of service of the original complaint upon the defendant, **except in those cases filed in January of 2002, the parties have 60 days to successfully complete the seminar.** No hearings, unless emergency in nature, nor mediation will be scheduled unless both parties present proof of attendance. However, the Court's action on a petition will not be delayed by a non-moving or responding party's refusal or delay in completing the seminar. Upon a party's failure to successfully complete the seminar pursuant to the Order, the assigned Judge may take appropriate action, including but not limited to actions for contempt.

Section 4: Participants will pay a fee of \$35.00, due at the beginning of each seminar, to cover the total cost of the seminar including the presenter's fee, handouts, application and program administration. The fee may be waived if a party presents a verified affidavit of poverty and it appears upon investigation that the party otherwise meets the Court's guidelines of indigency. Parent and Child, Inc. in Rincon, Effingham County, will administer the seminar using qualified counselors, educators, and trainers

Section 5: A service of equal value may be substituted for the seminar if written verification satisfactory to the Program Coordinator is provided to the Court by a third party indicating that the specific issues noted above have been addressed in another forum through professional or pastoral counseling, or another similar educational program. Parties may attend any three hour Superior Court approved parenting seminar in the State of Georgia and, upon proof of attendance, substitute attendance to this seminar. A certificate of attendance is valid for three years. Further, for good cause shown, the assigned judge may waive the requirement of this program in individual cases.


Section 6: A schedule of seminar dates may be obtained from the Clerk's office in each county, or from the program administrator.

Section 7: Parties must attend all three hours of the seminar in order to receive credit for attendance. Upon successful completion of the seminar, the parties will be awarded a certificate of attendance to present to the judge at the time of their court appearance.


Section 8: Security will be provided at each seminar immediately prior to, during, and immediately after each session.

Effective January 1, 2002.

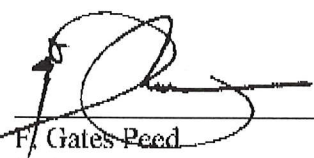
SO ORDERED this 10th day of December, 2001.



William E. Woodrum, Jr.
Chief Judge, Superior Court
Effingham County
Ogeechee Judicial Circuit



John R. Turner
Judge, Superior Court
Effingham County
Ogeechee Judicial Circuit



F. Gates Peed
Judge, Superior Court
Effingham County
Ogeechee Judicial Circuit