

## **LSPR 94.06 PARENTING SEMINARS**

**(a) Applicable Cases.** This rule shall apply to all cases filed after December 1, 1994 under Ch. 26.09 and Ch. 26.26 RCW, which require a parenting plan for minor children, including dissolutions of marriage with children, dissolutions of registered domestic partnerships with children, legal separations, major modifications, and paternity actions in which paternity has been established. A copy of the form entitled *Information for Persons Involved in a Custody Action* shall be served with the Petition and included in the Return of Service. The form is available on the Thurston County Superior Court website.

**(b) Mandatory Attendance.** All parties involved in cases governed by this rule shall complete an approved 4-hour parenting seminar, except parties who have previously attended the parenting seminar within the last 2 years. Standards for parenting seminars shall be established by the court and providers shall be approved by the court.

**(c) Timing.** Parties required by this rule to participate in a parenting seminar shall complete an approved parenting seminar within 45 days after service of the Petition or Motion initiating the action which is subject to this rule. Parties should file proof of completion of the parenting seminar as soon as possible after completion. In the case of paternity actions initiated by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the parenting seminar shall be required only when paternity is established or acknowledged and a Parenting Plan is requested.

**(d) Fees.** Each party attending a seminar shall pay a fee charged by the approved provider and sanctioned by the court. The court may waive the fee for indigent parties.

### **(e) Special Consideration/Waiver.**

(1) In no case shall opposing parties be required to attend a seminar together.

(2) Upon a showing of domestic violence or abuse which would not require mutual decision-making, pursuant to RCW 26.09.191, or that a parent's attendance at a seminar is not in the children's best interest, pursuant to Ch. 26.12 RCW, the court shall either:

(A) waive the requirement of completion of the seminar; or

(B) allow participation in an alternative voluntary parenting seminar for battered spouses.

(3) The court may waive the seminar requirement for good cause shown.

**(f) Failure to Attend/Sanctions.** Willful failure to participate in a parenting seminar or willful delay in completion of a parenting seminar by any party may constitute contempt of court and result in sanctions, including, but not limited to, imposition of monetary terms, striking of pleadings, or denial of affirmative relief to a party not in compliance with this rule.

[Amended effective July 1, 1998; September 1, 2006; September 1, 2008; September 1, 2019.]