

**LOCAL COURT RULE
DISTRICT COURT, JUDICIAL DISTRICT 22A**

**PARTNERS IN PARENTING
EDUCATION CLASS
Effective May 1, 2010**

Rule A.1 In all custody, visitation or custody modifications cases, the parties shall register for and complete a Partners in Parenting class or other approved parent education class within 60 days of the filing of the action or pleading. If a party has previously successfully completed Partners In Parenting then the Court, upon proper motion, may excuse that party from this requirement. The Court is not prevented from conducting any temporary or emergency hearing that may be necessary. The class completion is not a pre-requisite to the Court conducting any hearing that may be necessary or required.

Rule A.2 Upon filing of any of the above referenced actions or motions, the parties shall obtain from the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court a copy of the Partners In Parenting brochure prepared by Piedmont Mediation Center and follow the directives outlined therein. The moving party shall attach a copy of this rule and brochure and Order & Notice to Attend Partners In Parenting Education Class (form 22-P) to the pleading to be served upon the opposing party.

Rule A.3 The Partners In Parenting class is offered by the Piedmont Mediation Center. Each party shall contact the Piedmont Mediation Center within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving the Court's Order to register for the class and shall pay his or her respective fees and expenses as charged by the Piedmont Mediation Center. Each party shall bring their copy of the Order & Notice to Attend Partners in Parenting Class with them to the Piedmont Mediation Center on the date they attend the class.

Rule A.4 The Piedmont Mediation Center shall be responsible for maintaining data regarding the appointments and completion of Parent Education. The Center shall give each party a Certificate of Completion at the conclusion of the class and a copy of the signed certificate shall be filed in the Clerk's Office by Partners In Parenting.

The Center shall report to the Clerk of the Superior Court of each respective county and to the District Court Judge's Office for District 22A the failure of a party to attend a scheduled or rescheduled class.

If a party fails to attend the class by the required scheduled or rescheduled date, without good cause, the Chief District Court Judge or assigned Judge in Civil District Court may issue a Motion to Show Cause as to why this requirement was not met and may impose such sanctions as the Court deems appropriate.

Rule A.5 For good cause, on the written motion of either party or on the Court's own motion, the Court may waive a parties' attendance of the class. The moving party requesting a waiver of attendance of the class shall serve a copy of the motion upon the opposing party at the time the motion is filed with the Court. Any response to the motion by the opposing party shall be filed and served upon the moving party

within seven (7) days after receipt of the motion. Both the motion and response may be accompanied by supporting affidavits or other documentation. Either party may request an evidentiary hearing on the motion.

If the motion to waive attendance of the class is denied, the parties shall proceed with their scheduled appointments, or if the appointment date has passed shall, within forty-eight (48) hours after receiving the Court's ruling, contact the Piedmont Mediation Center for new appointment dates.

Partners In Parenting is an approved parent education class for parties involved in custody disputes. The same rules will apply for any other approved classes.