

FAQs by Parents

Q: What is Parent Education?

A: Parent Education is offered to help parents who separate from a spouse or partner or divorce to better understand the effects of their "breakup" on their children. Parents are given information and ideas about how to make the new family situation easier and more livable for themselves and their children.

Q: How do I get in touch with a Parent Education program?

A: *A List of Certified Parent Education Programs* with contact information can be obtained from the Chief Clerk's Offices in Family and Supreme Courts, on the New York State Parent Education website at www.nycourts.gov/parented or by calling 1-888-809-2798.

Q: Can a judge order me to attend Parent Education?

A: You can be ordered to attend parent education if you are the parent of a child under the age eighteen and you are involved in a custody, visitation, divorce, separation, annulment or child support court action or proceeding. However, you cannot be ordered to attend parent education if there is an indication that domestic violence is present.

Q: When and how can I be excused from attending Parent Education?

A: When safety is an issue due to domestic violence, the choice whether to attend is yours. You must contact the administrator of a certified parent education program in order to opt out. If you have other special circumstances that make attendance inappropriate or difficult, you should tell the Court prior to being ordered to attend. The Court will determine if it is a legitimate reason not to attend.

Q: Will my information be shared with anyone?

A: Any information that you provide to the Program Administrator or even that you contacted the Program Administrator is **confidential** and will not be shared with anyone.

Q: Can I attend Parent Education even if I am not ordered or referred by the court?

A: Yes. Since some programs accept only parents involved in Family Court proceedings or only those in Supreme Court, you should contact the parent education program that you wish to attend to find out its policy. If you need help, contact the PEAP Administrator toll free at (888) 809-2798 or by e-mail at nyparent-ed@nycourts.gov.

- Q:** What is the cost to attend Parent Education?
- A:** The cost depends on the parent education program that you attend. Each program sets its fee. The fee cannot be more than \$100.00 per person. Depending on your income, you may qualify for a scholarship to attend with no fee or a reduced fee.
- Q:** When and where are Parent Education classes held and is there security at the site?
- A:** Contact the parent education program that you wish to attend for more information about class location, dates and times classes are offered. Parent education programs certified by the NYS Office of Court Administration have a safety plan or security at the class site.
- Q:** I was referred by a judge in another state to attend a parent education class. Can I attend a parent education class in New York State?
- A:** Yes, you may attend a parent education class in New York State but check first with the judge of the other state to be sure it will be recognized.
- Q:** Who do I contact with a complaint, suggestion or question about Parent Education?
- A:** You may contact the New York State Parent Education and Awareness Program Administrator with questions, complaints or suggestions at:
NYS Office of Court Administration
Parent Education & Awareness Program
25 Beaver Street, Suite 809
New York, New York 10004
(888) 809-2798 / nyparent-ed@nycourts.gov