

## Parenting Education Courses

As a matter of local policy for cases involving divorce, custody and visitation (parenting time) with children, the judges of the Second Judicial Circuit have determined that all parties must complete a parenting class to advise and educate parents on managing the effects of divorce or separation on children. This list is not exclusive and parties may propose other established parenting classes and programs for judges' approval, but the following programs may be used to fulfill the Circuit's requirement:

### **SMILE (Start Making It Livable for Everyone)**

An educational program for separated/divorced parents with minor children. In the past classes were offered in person at the Minnehaha County Courthouse, Sioux Falls, but beginning in October 2019 classes moved to online only. The SMILE verification form is filed with the court.

Registration Cost: Free, in the Second Circuit

Smile Video: <https://ujs.sd.gov/uploads/secondcircuit/SMILEProgram.pdf>

Smile Verification: [https://ujs.sd.gov/uploads/fourthcircuit/SMILE\\_online\\_verification.pdf](https://ujs.sd.gov/uploads/fourthcircuit/SMILE_online_verification.pdf)

Contact: Court Administration – 605-367-5920

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### **Divorce Care:**

The Celebrate Community Church Group is a local Christian counseling group that meets every week on Tuesdays from 6:30pm-8:30pm. This class is set up to be 13 weeks long (14 weeks if they would like to participate in the Surviving the Holidays class). The group is led by past members who have successfully completed the class. Child care is available through the DC for Kids program. This program runs the same time for ages 6-12 (volunteer ran).

Registration Cost: \$20.00.

Covers the Divorce Care workbook and video content. Scholarship opportunities exist for those who are not able to pay the registration fee.

### Links:

Divorce Care Website: <https://www.divorcecare.org>.

Upcoming session details: <https://www.divorcecare.org/groups/109808#schedule>.

DC for Kids Program: <https://www.dc4k.org>.

Contact: Carson Walker, Program Facilitator  
605-357-7067

## **OnlineParentingPrograms.com:**

Parenting education courses for families going through divorce. There are several courses available ranging in price. Including a two-hour class that can be completed at any time online. The completion certificate could be filed with the court.

Benefits to Courts: Multi-Language, Customizable classes, researched based, detailed reporting, free printed materials, free administrative accounts to preview online classes, no contract fee.

Benefits to Parents: Self-paced, instant access 24/7, certificate of completion, interactive learning environment, low income and military discounts.

Link: <https://www.onlineparentingprograms.com/info-for/counties-and-courts.html>

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## **Co-Parenting/Divorce Class:**

2-Hour Online: \$29.99 - Basic co-parenting (verify with the court prior to registration).

Link: <https://www.onlineparentingprograms.com/online-classes/co-parenting-divorce-class.html>

Youtube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=saOcXkxUlv0>

Contact: Alexandra V.

[alexandra@onlineparentingprograms.com](mailto:alexandra@onlineparentingprograms.com)

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## **Crossroads of Parenting and Divorce**

Offered as an online (Zoom) seminar as of March 2021; may be offered in person in the future as circumstances allow. From the provider's website: "Crossroads of Parenting & Divorce is a video-based seminar designed to minimize the emotional damage that parents cause to their children during and after a divorce. The seminar provides parents with the skills necessary to make child-focused decisions. Parents learn that their behaviors and choices determine how their child will ultimately adjust to the divorce."

Registration Cost: \$100

Link: <https://crossroads.eventzilla.net/web/event?eventid=2139090296>

Schedule: Currently offered on various Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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### **Positive Parenting Through Divorce:**

Parenting education course specializing in divorce/separation. This class is four hours long and uses an online live format. This allows for two-way communication between instructor and student. It is suggested that this class be held outside of the courthouse. All instructors are marriage/family therapists. This class provides a certificate of completion that could be filed with the court.

Needed for this class: Computer/smartphone, web camera, headphones, and internet access. Photo identification is needed before the beginning of the class.

Link: <http://www.livevideoparentingclass.com/faq-s>

Registration Cost: \$50.00

Youtube Video - Example of Sample Class: <https://youtu.be/D5ZV1sAX6Ok>

Contact: Angie Maione, Program Coordinator

[support@positiveparentingonline.com](mailto:support@positiveparentingonline.com)

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### **Common Sense Parenting Program**

Educational program to help those wanting to improve their parenting skills. This class can be taken in a group or one on one. It is 6 weeks long and there is no charge to register. The best way to sign up is to call Sandy Jones the parenting coordinator at Childrens Inn.

Meeting Place: Children's Inn - 409 N Western Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Contact: Sandy Jones, Parenting Coordinator - 605-338-0116

Class Dates: [https://dss.sd.gov/docs/childprotection/common\\_sense\\_parenting\\_schedule.pdf](https://dss.sd.gov/docs/childprotection/common_sense_parenting_schedule.pdf)

DSS Website: <https://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/parentingprogram.aspx>

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