

Chancery, Circuit and General Sessions Courts for Blount County, Tennessee

January 2, 2001

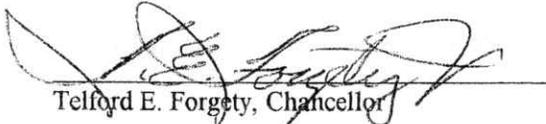
Dear Parent,

The Tennessee Legislature has mandated that divorcing couples with minor children attend a Parent Education Seminar. The Seminar teaches the importance of protecting and enhancing the child's emotional development and informs parents of the legal process. This law applies to your dispute and how your parenting responsibilities, including financial support, will be allocated.

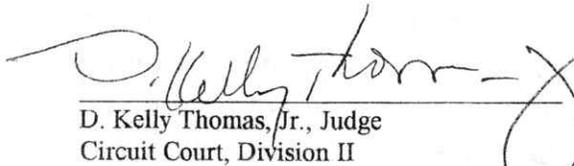
In addition, the new law requires that parents attempt to resolve their disputes over parenting responsibilities through mediation before having a trial. You, as parents, know the needs of your children and how those needs can be met through your mutual efforts. The purpose of the law, which we support, is to encourage parents to work together to reduce the impact and trauma of separation on their children. The law states that a Court may consider the refusal of a parent to participate in this program when the Court makes decisions (1) about the residence of the child, and (2) who, if anyone, will be allowed sole decision making authority concerning the child.

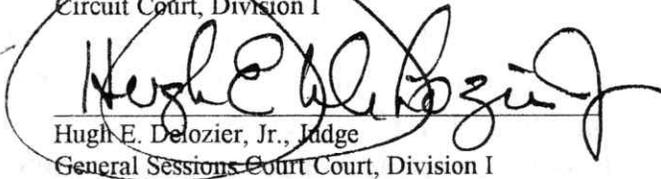
We appreciate your mutual efforts to work out your differences and reduce the emotional harm to your children. We will assist your efforts in any way the law permits.

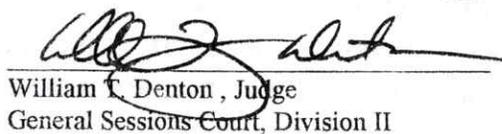
Very truly yours,


Telford E. Forgy, Chancellor


W. Dale Young, Judge
Circuit Court, Division I


D. Kelly Thomas, Jr., Judge
Circuit Court, Division II


Hugh E. Delozier, Jr., Judge
General Sessions Court Court, Division I


William T. Denton, Judge
General Sessions Court, Division II


William R. Brewer, Jr., Judge
General Sessions Court Court, Division III

**Parents guide to developing the Parenting Plan
Maintaining a sense of Family**

PERMANENT PARENTING PLAN

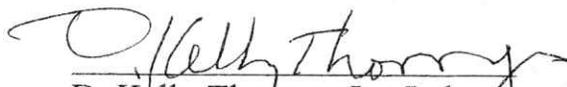
The Tennessee Parenting Plan is a program designed to empower the court system with legislation and parents with necessary tools and skills to provide a better comfort level for children of divorce. The Permanent Parenting Plan recognizes the fundamental importance of the parent-child relationship to the welfare of the child. In most situations, children do best when they receive the emotional and financial support of both parents. Every component of the parenting plan is designed to focus on the child's best interest:

- Development of the permanent parenting plan provides parents with an opportunity to establish a road map for future parenting of the child.
- This plan can serve as a successful tool in reducing conflict when it is prepared in thoughtful, rational discussions rather than in heated emotional exchanges.
- It removes legal jargon and replaces it with common, everyday terms, and sets the framework to develop a family reorganization.
- It can work to preserve family relationships.
- It encourages both parents to make their children the number one priority, and to see the need for the children to maintain a close, continuing relationship with each parent.
- It enables both parents to remain involved in major decisions including education, religion, and medical care.

The Permanent Parenting Plan attempts to move away from the concepts of "custody" and "visitation" to emphasize the concept of "parenting responsibilities". The overall goal and objective of the plan is to lessen the hostility and encourage parents to work cooperatively in the best interest of their children. As parents working together you will make the major decisions including education, religion, and medical care. You will make the decisions on how to resolve future issues as you continue to parent your children.

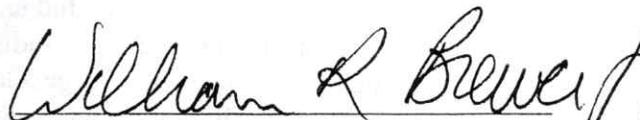

Telford E. Forgety, Chancellor


W. Dale Young, Judge
Circuit Court, Division I


D. Kelly Thomas, Jr., Judge
Circuit Court, Division II


Hugh E. DeLozier, Jr., Judge
General Sessions Court Court, Div. I


William T. Denton, Judge
General Sessions Court, Div. II


William R. Brewer, Jr., Judge
General Sessions Court Court, Div. III

**CHANCERY, CIRCUIT AND GENERAL SESSIONS COURTS
FOR BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

BLOUNT COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER, MARYVILLE, TN 37804

Telford E. Forgety, Jr., Chancellor
W. Dale Young, Judge, Circuit Court, Division I
D. Kelly Thomas, Jr., Judge, Circuit Court, Division II
Hugh E. Delozier, Jr., Judge, General Sessions Court, Division I
William T. Denton, Judge, General Sessions Court, Division II
William R. Brewer, Jr., Judge, General Sessions Court, Division III

PARENTS' GUIDE TO EDUCATION SEMINAR

Date January 2, 2001

Dear Parent:

The Tennessee Legislature has mandated that divorcing couples with minor children attend a Parent Education Seminar. The Seminar teaches the importance of protecting and enhancing the child's emotional development and informs parents of the legal process. As indicated in the General Order Concerning Parenting Plan in the Chancery, Circuit and General Sessions Courts for Blount County, Tennessee:

Both Parents shall attend, within thirty (30) days of receipt of this order, a parent education seminar sanctioned by the Courts of at least four- (4) hours duration and shall be required to furnish the Court with a certificate of attendance.

It will be necessary for **YOU** to contact a parent education seminar provider for scheduling your class. (list attached)

It is **NOT** necessary that you attend the same class with your spouse.

If you have any questions about the class or attendance requirement or difficulty in scheduling the class, please contact my office at 865-273-5500.

You may already be under a specific order setting a time within which you must complete the requirement. That order takes precedence over this letter. If no specific time frame is set in the order in your case, **you have thirty (30) days from the date you receive the Order.** Failure to comply with the provisions of this order shall be treated as contempt and may be sanctioned accordingly.

If you have attended a class and have not filed the certificate of attendance with the Clerk's office, please complete this process immediately.

If you have attended a class and have filed the certificate, please disregard this notice.

Thank you for your cooperation and timely response to this opportunity to reduce the emotional harm to your children during the divorce proceedings.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT, CIRCUIT COURT AND GENERAL SESSIONS COURT
FOR BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE

GENERAL ORDER CONCERNING PARENTING PLAN



WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated 36-6-401 et seq., takes affect in all the counties in Tennessee, including Blount County, Tennessee, on January 1, 2001;and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the legislation is to educate parents concerning the impact of divorce on their children, focus the parents attention to the needs of their children and encourage the use of mediation rather than litigation to resolve these differences; and, it being the opinion of the undersigned Judges of all the Court's of this county that the concept of the Parenting Plan Law is in the best interests of the minor children of divorcing parents and of the parents themselves,

IT IS ORDERED that the parties with minor children in all divorce cases shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. The Plaintiff, upon filing an original complaint for divorce or the moving party in a post divorce matter, shall file with the pleadings one of the following:
 - a. An Agreed Temporary Parenting Plan,
 - b. A Proposed Temporary Parenting Plan,
 - c. An Agreed Permanent Parenting Plan, or

d. An affidavit that the provisions of T.C.A. 36-6-406 apply.

2. The Defendant, in the filing of an original complaint for divorce or the Respondent in a post divorce matter, if no agreement has been reached, shall file with the Answer or Response a Proposed Parenting Plan.
3. Both parents shall attend, within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order, a Parent Education Seminar sanctioned by the Courts of at least four (4) hours duration and shall be required to file with the Court a certificate of attendance. Failure of either or both parents to attend the seminar can result in a finding of contempt and punishment accordingly.
4. Should an Agreed Temporary Parenting Plan or Agreed Permanent Parenting Plan not be filed, then the Court with or without a hearing and the taking of proof, in its discretion, shall Order a temporary parenting plan.
5. If the parties have not reached an agreement on a permanent parenting plan, each party shall file and serve a Proposed Permanent Parenting Plan on or before forty-five (45) days before the date set for the trial of the case. Further, the parties shall immediately be subject to required mediation to resolve their differences between each respective parties' Proposed Permanent Parenting Plan. The parties shall select a mutually agreeable mediator to preside over the mediation. Should the parties be unable to choose a mutually agreeable mediator, then either or both parties, shall request the

Court to select a mediator and the Court's selection becomes binding upon the parties.

6. All provisions of T.C.A. 36-6-401 et seq. and all provisions of this general order shall apply to all pending cases as of January 1, 2001 that involve the residency of children. This shall include all original actions filed prior to January 1, 2001 and still pending before the Court and all post divorce matters filed prior to January 1, 2001 and still pending before the Court.

It is further ORDERED that failure to comply with the provisions of this Order shall be treated as contempt and may be punished accordingly.

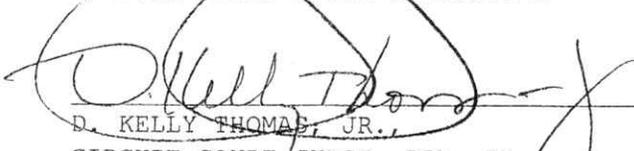
ENTER this 8 day of Jan., 2001 for
January 1, 2001.



TELFORD E. FORGEY,
CHANCELLOR



W. DALE YOUNG,
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE DIVISION I



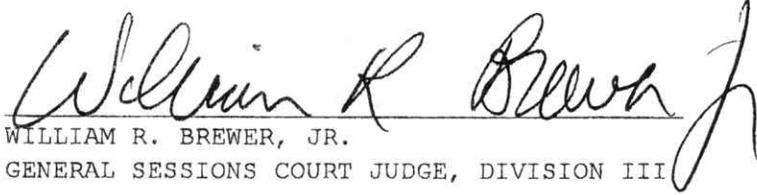
D. KELLY THOMAS, JR.,
CIRCUIT COURT/JUDGE, DIV. II



HUGH E. DELOZIER, JR.
GENERAL SESSIONS COURT JUDGE, DIVISION I



WILLIAM TERRY DENTON
GENERAL SESSIONS COURT JUDGE, DIVISION II



WILLIAM R. BREWER, JR.
GENERAL SESSIONS COURT JUDGE, DIVISION III