

- 1 b. The family relationship, and
2 c. The couples' financial responsibilities for the children;
3 The course should also provide information to attendees on
4 resources available in the community for helping families affected by
5 divorce;

6 The course should not be so lengthy as to be unduly burdensome, but
7 should be sufficiently comprehensive in subject matter and information
8 to be useful to attendees;

- 9 (2) An administrative plan for the implementation of the program statewide
10 or in selected judicial districts, as recommended by the Administrative
11 Office of the Courts; the administrative plan shall include:

12 a. Provision for the court to waive the course attendance
13 requirement upon its own motion or upon motion of one or both
14 of the parties if the court determines that attendance and
15 completion of the course are not necessary, appropriate, feasible,
16 or in the best interest of the parties,

17 b. Estimates of the cost to operate the program in selected districts,
18 or statewide,

19 c. Estimates of reasonable fees that attendees would be charged,
20 and a method for waiving such fees in cases of severe financial
21 hardship,

22 d. Methods for evaluating the courses to ensure effectiveness, and
23 for certifying attendance,

24 e. How the program will be implemented at the local level, and

25 f. Other administrative matters identified by the Administrative
26 Office of the Courts as necessary for effective and efficient
27 program implementation;

- 28 (3) Identification of course providers with whom the Administrative Office
29 of the Courts would contract to make courses available at reasonable
30 times and for reasonable fees, and to ensure that courses will be
31 available with sufficient regularity to meet the needs of the judicial
32 district in which the program is offered; and

- 33 (4) Other matters considered by the Administrative Office of the Courts to
34 be important program components.

35 (b) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall ensure involvement and input
36 into the development of the program by persons who have experience in assisting
37 families through and after the divorcing process.

38 Sec. 2. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall report to the General
39 Assembly not later than May 1, 1996, on the program developed pursuant to Section 1 of
40 this act. The report shall include the following:

- 41 (1) Recommendations on whether the program should be implemented
42 statewide or in targeted pilot districts, and the reasons for the
43 recommendation;

- 1 (2) The amount of State funds that will be necessary to support the
2 program; these amounts shall indicate costs to operate the programs
3 locally, and administrative costs for the Administrative Office of the
4 Courts to supervise and oversee program operation;
5 (3) Legislation that may be needed to facilitate program implementation
6 and operation; and
7 (4) Other recommendations the Office of Administrative Hearings
8 considers appropriate.
9 Sec. 3. This act is effective upon ratification.