

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 97-9092

**APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE LOCAL RULES
FOR THE 35th DISTRICT COURTS,
BROWN AND MILLS COUNTIES, TEXAS**

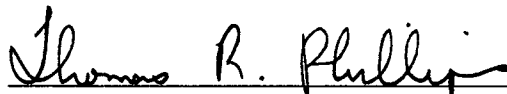
ORDERED:


Pursuant to Rule 3a of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, the Supreme Court approves the following local rules, which have been submitted to this Court:

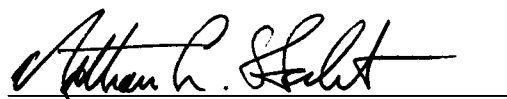
Amendment to the Local Rules for the 35th District Courts of Brown and Mills Counties, Texas, adding Rule 4.10 regarding Children's Interest Seminars in Family Law Cases

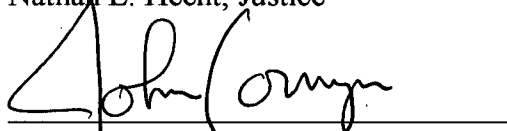
The approval of these rules is temporary, pending further orders of the Court.

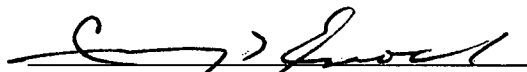
SIGNED AND ENTERED this 9th day of June, 1997

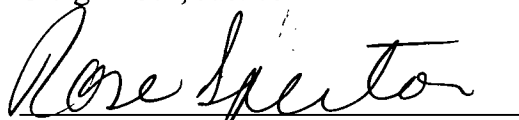

Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice



Raul A. Gonzalez, Justice


Nathan L. Hecht, Justice

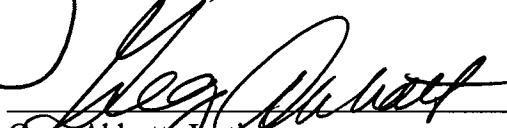

John Cornyn, Justice


Craig Enoch, Justice


Rose Spector, Justice


Priscilla R. Owen, Justice


James A. Baker, Justice


Greg Abbott, Justice

**IN THE 35TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
BROWN and MILLS COUNTIES, STATE OF TEXAS**

Local rule 4.10 is adopted subject to the approval of the Presiding Judge of the Seventh Administrative Judicial Region of Texas and the Supreme Court of Texas to read as follows:

Rule 4.10 Children's Interest Seminar in Family Law Cases

(a) This rule applies to all parties in all suits affecting the parent-child relationship filed in the 35th Judicial District Court, effective upon approval by the Presiding Judge of the Seventh Administrative Judicial Region of Texas and the Supreme Court of Texas.

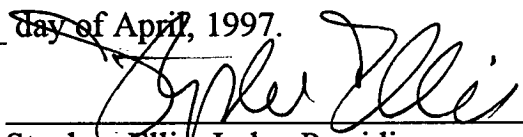
(b) The 35th Judicial District Court may require such parties to successfully complete a seminar that addresses the issues confronting children that are the subject of divorce, custody and child support litigations. Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein for all purposes describes the seminar. Each party is responsible for payment of the appropriate fee.

(c) The seminar shall be successfully completed within 60 days of the service of the original petition upon the respondent, or if service is waived, then within 60 days of waiver of citation.

(d) Upon a party's failure to successfully complete the seminar pursuant to this rule, the Court may take appropriate action, including contempt, striking of any pleadings, or any of the sanctions listed in Rule 215 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

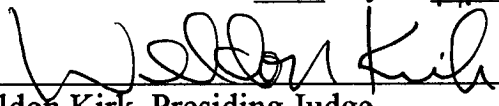
(e) For good cause shown, the Court may waive the requirement of completion of the seminar.

ADOPTED and SIGNED this the 1 day of April, 1997.



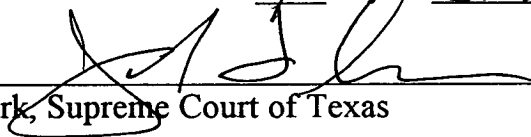
Stephen Ellis, Judge Presiding
35th Judicial District Court

APPROVED this the 2ND day of APRIL, 1997



Weldon Kirk, Presiding Judge
Seventh Administrative Judicial Region of Texas

APPROVED this the 9TH day of June, 1997



Clerk, Supreme Court of Texas

**“CHILDREN and DIVORCE PROGRAM” is a hands-on
seminar delivered by trained professionals
designed to help parents nurture their children
through the transitions of divorce**

Divorce does not have to ruin a child's life. However, divorce is a painful and confusing experience for all children. Research indicates that the manner in which parents handle divorce can have a direct effect on children's adjustments. The "Children and Divorce" seminars are designed to help parents gain insight into the needs of their children during the transitions of divorce.

Even the most loving and caring parents find it difficult to focus on their children's needs during such a traumatic time -- and they seldom have the necessary skills to help their children with the resulting change and loss. This program puts parents in touch with their children's needs and provides them with the knowledge and skills to safely nurture their children throughout this process.

As an educational model, "Children and Divorce" does not deal with personal or legal issues, nor is it intended to be a substitute for counseling. The overwhelming majority of parents who have participated in the seminars feel it is a very supportive and worthwhile experience.

Who may attend? Any interested parent or professional is invited. Parents involved in a divorce, motion to modify, or other suits involving the parent-child relationship may be required by the court to attend.

When and where are the seminars held? On the third Tuesday and Thursday of each month from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Family Services Center located at 901 Avenue B, Brownwood, Texas. (The corner of Avenue B and Austin Avenue)

Who facilitates the seminars? Professionals with masters degrees in counseling, social work, or parent education lead the sessions. Generally, a male and female co-facilitate.

What is the cost? Fees are generally \$30.00 per person, payable by check or money order ahead of time, but a sliding scale is available for those unable to pay the full cost.

What information is covered? "Children & Divorce" focusses on issues such as understanding the effects of divorce on children, gaining insight into children's perceptions of divorce, talking to children about family changes, how to avoid placing children in the middle of parental issues, and maintaining a meaningful and loving relationship with children.

How do I register? Registrations need to be made in person at the Family Outreach office, Family Services Center, 901 Avenue B, Brownwood, Texas, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call ahead for appointment at (915) 643-1009. Cash, money order or cashier's checks are to be made payable to Family Outreach.

Will I receive a Certificate of Completion? All participants who complete the four hour seminar receive a certificate of completion. Seminars begin and end on time. No late arrivals are allowed. Participants must remain in class for the entire seminar. **No exceptions.**

Children's seminar and child care is available during the course hours. All children between the ages of four years and twelve years are urged to attend the children's program which will be held in a different room at the same time and facility as the parent's seminar.

CHILDREN AND DIVORCE PROGRAM

SLIDING FEE SCALE

SALARY

\$20,000.00 & Up	\$30.00
\$10,000.00 - \$19,999	\$20.00
\$ -0- - \$9,999	\$10.00

Fees are to be paid by cash, money order or cashier's check at the time of the scheduled class.

FAMILY OUTREACH
Family Services Center
901 Avenue B
Brownwood, Texas 76801
(915) 643-1009



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

POST OFFICE BOX 12248 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

TEL: (512) 463-1312

FAX: (512) 463-1365

CLERK
JOHN T. ADAMS

JUSTICES
RAUL A. GONZALEZ
NATHAN L. HECHT
JOHN CORNYN
CRAIG ENOCH
ROSE SPECTOR
PRISCILLA R. OWEN
JAMES A. BAKER
GREG ABBOTT

EXECUTIVE ASST
WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST
NADINE SCHNEIDER

June 9, 1997

Hon. Stephen Ellis
35th District Court
200 South Broadway
Brownwood, Texas 76801-3192

Dear Judge Ellis,

Please find enclosed, a copy of the order of the Supreme Court that approved local rules for the 35th District Court of Brown and Mills Counties.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk

Encl.

cc: Hon. Weldon Kirk
7th Admin Judicial Rgn

Webb District/County Clerk

Brown District Clerk

Brown County Clerk

Supreme Court Adv Committee

Mr. Jerry Benedict
Office of Court Admin

State Law Library