

CHILD FIRST PROGRAM

County Court at Law, Rusk County
(Sponsored by Rusk County Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.)

All about Child First Program:

This program is designed to help parents help their children through the transition of divorce. The program is carried out under the direction of the County Court at Law and is administered by Rusk County Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.

Child First is a court ordered program for divorcing couples with children. The purpose of the program is two-fold. Information is provided which can help parents to avoid putting children in the middle of parental conflicts during divorce. In addition, information is provided which can assist parents in conflicts management. Parents will be provided practical information that can be immediately applied in everyday situations for divorcing families. Each individual will be given two parents' manuals for them to keep for future references.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Both parents will be court ordered to attend one (1) CHILD FIRST parenting seminar within 45 days after filing for divorce. In addition, a close friend or relative, who is a support to the parent and/or children during this time, will also benefit from the program and are welcome to attend. That individual MUST BE REGISTERED AND FEES PAID ALONG WITH THE DIVORCING PARENT. Rusk County Children's Advocacy Center, Inc. need to be notified if you plan to bring a guest so that they may be added to the registration list (phone number listed on form).

MAY COUPLES ATTEND TOGETHER?

Couples are requested to attend separate sessions. Couples in divorce are experiencing a high level of emotional feelings and forced joint attendance would serve to increase the stress for both. Therefore, please arrange together or through your attorney(s) to attend separate sessions.

WHEN AND WHERE ARE THE SESSIONS HELD?

The parenting seminars are held twice monthly: 6:00PM – 9:00PM on the first Tuesday and from 9:00AM to 12:00 noon on the third Saturday of each month. Seminars are held at the Rusk County Children's Advocacy Center at 500 West Main (across from Goodwill Store).

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES

If there are not enough participants registered for a class, the class will be cancelled. You will be notified by a phone call the day before the scheduled class if the class has been cancelled. Your name will be added to the roster of the next scheduled class-**you do not need to re-register.**

REGISTRATION FEE(S)

FOR DIVORCES FILED IN RUSK COUNTY – Advance registration and a nonrefundable fee of \$35 is required of each individual. Individuals will complete the registration form and take or mail to the **CHILD SUPPORT OFFICE of the RUSK COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK OFFICE, County Courthouse, P.O. Box 1687, Henderson, Texas 75652.**

REGISTRATION FOR A FRIEND OR RELATIVE is \$15 and must be mailed or brought directly to the Rusk County Children's Advocacy Center 500 West Main, P.O. Box 1271, Henderson, Texas 75653.

FOR DIVORCES FILED OUT OF COUNTY – Advance registration and a nonrefundable fee of \$35 is required of each individual. The registration forms must be mailed or brought directly to Rusk County Children's Advocacy Center 500 West Main, P.O. Box 1271, Henderson, Texas 75653.

**INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NOT REGISTERED AND PAID THEIR FEE IN ADVANCE
MAY NOT ATTEND A CLASS. NO WALK-INS ACCEPTED!!!!**

NO CHECKS ACCEPTED - CASH, MONEY ORDER OR CASHIER CHECKS ONLY!!!!

For additional information, please call the
Rusk County Children's Advocacy Center, Inc. at (903)657-0790.

CHILD FIRST REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____
Street City Zip

Phone #: _____
(home) (work) (cell)

Ethnicity: _____ Anglo/Caucasian _____ Hispanic Asian _____ African-American
 _____ Native American _____ Other: _____

List Children:

Name: _____ Age: _____ Male / Female
 Name: _____ Age: _____ Male / Female
 Name: _____ Age: _____ Male / Female
 Name: _____ Age: _____ Male / Female

Name of County Divorce Proceedings originated: _____

Date you will attend Child First Class: _____

Name of person accompanying you to class: _____

(OPTIONAL: \$15.00 FEE PAID AT THE DOOR AT BEGINNING OF CLASS, IF PERSON IS ACCOMPANYING YOU TO CLASS)