

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE YUKON TERRITORY

PRACTICE DIRECTION # 37

*Parenting After Separation
or Divorce*

This practice direction makes it mandatory for parents who are parties to a divorce petition or any proceeding where a claim for custody, access or child support is made to take the parenting workshop called *For the Sake of the Children*. It is the view of the court that it is in the best interests of children to have their parents as fully informed as possible about the impact of separation and divorce on children and parents and the resources available to assist them in managing their post-separation relationships.

As the workshops are only presented in Whitehorse, at this time, the mandatory nature of this practice direction only applies to parents who reside within 30 kilometres of Whitehorse. However, all parents should be encouraged by counsel to take the workshop if they reside in the Yukon. In the event that the workshop is held in other Yukon communities in the future, it will be mandatory within a radius of 30 kilometres from those communities. If a parent does not reside in the Yukon, they are required to take equivalent workshops in the jurisdiction they reside.

This practice direction will be effective for all proceedings commencing December 1, 2006. The workshop must be taken within six months from the date of filing by the parent commencing the divorce petition or proceeding and six months from the date of service by the party being served.

This mandatory attendance does not apply:

1. to a party who does not reside within a 30-kilometre radius of the City of Whitehorse;
2. when the parties have filed a written agreement settling all the issues between them;
3. when all the children are 16 years of age and over.

A parent who has taken the workshop may file a Certificate of Completion.

Failure to take the workshop may be a factor in any custody, access or child support application.

Veale J.
November 30, 2006