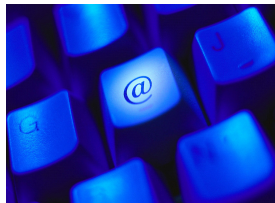




Focus On Children

An Online Educational Program For Parents Going Through a Divorce, Child in Common, or Custody Modifications

This online program is designed to be accessible for persons with disabilities in compliance with the requirements of The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 508 for online websites and programs.



An Online Program of
Comprehensive Mental Health Inc.
200 South Kingshighway
St.Charles, MO 63301
636-949-2650

Table of Contents

Part 1: Introduction..... Page 3

Part 2: Statement of Problem/Need..... Page 3

Part 3: Program Goals and Description..... Page 4

Part 4: Content and Materials..... Page 5

Part 5: Oversight of Online Program..... Page 6





Introduction

St. Charles County Circuit Court requires all individuals filing a petition for dissolution of marriage, child in common or custody modifications of minor children to complete a parent educational program. This program aims to help parents move beyond the problems associated with the break-up of the family. Additionally, parents must learn how to manage their lives and resolve the conflicts with their co-parent, creating a healthy life for themselves and their children.

For the past ten years, Comprehensive Mental Health Inc. has been providing a “Focus On Children” class at their location, 200 S. Kingshighway, St. Charles, MO 63301. However, a need exists to accommodate persons with disabilities and others who are unable to obtain transportation to and from the office. In offering an online class in adherence to The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities will be able to access this important program.

Statement of Problem/Need:

- An estimated **one million children** per year experience the impact of divorce.
- Conflict between parents has a tremendous negative impact on children.
- 52% of marriages end in divorce.
- 67% of second marriages end in divorce
- 74% of third marriages end in divorce
- 43.7% of custodial mothers and 56.2% of custodial fathers were either separated or divorced as of 2003.
- Fatherless homes account for 63% of youth suicides, 71% of high school dropouts, and 85% of youth in prison.
- 46.9% of non-custodial mothers default on child support.

Program Goals and Description

Goals of the Online “Focus On Children” Program:

- Help parents understand the divorce process and its impact on children of all ages.
- Encourage parents to communicate and respond appropriately with each other and their children as they plan for each child’s well- being and the family’s transitions.
- Teach the five-step SOLVE model for conflict resolution.
- Help parents learn to resolve grief, anger, and conflict successfully and to assist their children with these issues.
- Provide information to parents regarding community resources which may be helpful to adults and children of divorcing or separated families.

Description of Online Program:

The “Focus On Children” program is a online parenting education program. The program will take approximately two hours to complete. Participants will be required to read program information and take three section quizzes that will be segmented throughout the program’s twelve chapters.





Content and Material

1. Introduction
2. Divorce and Child Custody Models: Past and Future
3. The Legal Aspects of Child in Common, Divorce and Custody Modifications Affecting Children: Creating a Parenting Plan
4. Coping with Emotions: Loss and Grief
5. The Importance of Co-Parenting
6. How Conflict Affects Children
7. Conflict Resolution Skills: The SOLVE Model
8. Children's Reactions to Divorce or Separation
9. Healing During Transition
10. Maintaining Parenting Relationships
11. Section Quizzes
12. Getting Additional Help When Necessary: Printable links, Resources, Reference books and Websites for Parents and Children.

Oversight of the Online Program

The “Focus On Children” program will be offered online through a link on Comprehensive Mental Health Inc.’s website. The program will be accessible for all individuals with internet access, including individual’s with disabilities, who would otherwise be unable to attend the current “Focus On Children” parenting class scheduled at Comprehensive Mental Health Inc.

The program will be written and monitored by a qualified instructor with a Master’s Degree in Social Work, Psychology, Education, or a comparable field and have experience working with divorcing parents, family counseling, marital, and divorce therapy. In addition each instructor will have experience working with diverse cultural and socioeconomic populations.

The program will be designed for an online payment option through PayPal. The participants can also pre-pay for the class through use of Mastercard, Visa or cash payment in person at Comprehensive Mental Health Inc. location at 200 S. Kingshighway, St. Charles, MO 63301.

After completing the 2 hour online program, participants will submit an email of completion to Comprehensive Mental Health Inc or call 636-949-2650 to confirm that the program is completed. Comprehensive Mental Health Inc. will then fax the certificate of completion to the St. Charles County Circuit Court and will also mail/fax a copy of completion to the participant for their records.

All participants will be encouraged to call or email Comprehensive Mental Health Inc. with any questions, concerns or needed resources.

