

# CHILD FIRST PROGRAM

County Court at Law, Rusk County

(Sponsored by Rusk- Panola 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-Panola 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-Panola 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?

No! Couples are requested to attend separate sessions. Couples in divorce are experiencing a high level of emotion and joint attendance could serve to increase the stress for both. Please arrange together or through your attorney(s) to attend separate sessions.

## WHEN AND WHERE IS THE SESSIONS HELD?

The parenting seminars are held twice monthly: **6:00PM - 9:00PM on the first Monday and from 9:00AM to 12:00 noon on the third Saturday of each month**. The seminars will be held at the Rusk-Panola County Children's Advocacy Center at 610 US Hwy 79 N Henderson, TX 75653.

## CANCELLATION OF CLASSES

If there are not enough participants registered for a class, the class will be cancelled. You will receive a call notifying you that the class has been cancelled and you will need to call the Rusk County District Clerk's office at 903-657-0348 to reschedule for the next available class.

## REGISTRATION FEE(S)

**FOR DIVORCES FILED IN RUSK COUNTY** - Advance registration and a nonrefundable fee of \$35 is required of each individual *3 working days prior to attending a class*. Individuals will complete the registration form and take or mail to the CHILD SUPPORT OFFICE of the RUSK COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK, Rusk County Courthouse, P.O. Box 168, Henderson, Texas 75652.