

## NOTICE-FAMILY LAW CASES

### I. MEDIATION REQUIRED PRIOR TO TEMPORARY ORDER HEARING ON CUSTODY

All parties are required to view the video available in the Fort Bend County Law Library entitled "Don't Forget the Children" prior to any temporary order hearing involving contested custody. Mediation is required prior to any temporary order hearing involving custody except for good cause shown.

### II. PARENT EDUCATION COURSE REQUIRED PRIOR TO FINAL TRIAL.

Except for good cause shown, the local rules of the Family Courts of Fort Bend County require that the adults in all cases filed in the 328<sup>th</sup> District Court and 387<sup>th</sup> District Court involving minor children (whether the cases are contested or uncontested), attend a parent education seminar prior to appearing in Court for a final hearing. Children also should attend the child-related portion of such seminar if permitted by the seminar provider. A certificate verifying attendance at the parent education seminar must be filed with the Clerk of the Court prior to a final hearing.

Seminars currently available in this area:

Children Cope with Divorce, locations in Richmond and Houston  
(713)952-COPE

Escape Family Resource Center, locations in Richmond and Houston  
(713)942-9500  
Se Habla Espanol

Depelchin Children's Center, locations in Richmond and Houston  
(713)730-2335  
Se Habla Espanol

Stop The Conflict, located in Houston  
(713)520-5370

### III. MEDIATION REQUIRED PRIOR TO FINAL TRIAL ON MERITS

All parties are required to attend mediation before a final trial on the merits in all cases except Applications for Protective Orders. Mediators may be chosen by the parties. Contact the Fort Bend County Dispute Resolution Center at 211 Houston, Richmond, TX 77469, (281)342-5000 if mediation is to be scheduled through that office. If the parties are unable to agree on a mediator or a mediation date, a motion should be filed with the Court. A certificate of mediation settlement/or inability to settle at mediation signed by the mediator must be filed with the clerk prior to a trial on the merits.

### IV. CHALLENGES TO EXPERTS TO BE DETERMINED PRIOR TO DAY OF TRIAL

If the testimony of expert witnesses is to be challenged per Daubert, etc..., notice of such challenge shall be given to all parties and the Court, and a hearing scheduled, prior to the day of trial for the purpose of determining such challenges. Challenges not presented and heard prior to the day of trial will be considered waived.