

L1915.3 Commencement of Action. Complaint. Order. Service.

(a) All Custody Complaints and Petitions for Modification shall be filed with the Prothonotary. In addition to the scheduling Order required by Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.3, there shall be attached by the Conciliator's office, an additional Order with the following text:

“All adult parties to this action, who have not yet attended the seminar for divided families endorsed by the Butler County Family Court, shall within 5 days of receipt of this Order register to attend the next available seminar. Contact 724 XXX-XXXX to register. Attendance at this seminar is mandatory, unless, within 5 days of receipt of the Order, a party seeks permission to attend a comparable program in another county, and within 10 days, permission is granted by the custody conciliator.”

(b) In addition to the filing fees assessed by the Prothonotary, an administrative fee for conciliation services shall be assessed by administrative order of court, and shall be submitted to the Prothonotary at the time of the filing of the custody complaint unless otherwise directed by the court.

(c) Within 5 days of service of any claim for custody, partial custody, or visitation, any party to an action who has not previously attended the education seminar for divided families shall register to attend said seminar. Information concerning the seminar shall be provided by the prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas of Butler County, Pennsylvania, to the filing party. Said party shall be responsible for service of such information on the opposing party.

(1) Failure of either party to register for the seminar, prior to the conference, may subject the noncompliant party to such sanctions as may be appropriate, including an award of counsel fees.

(2) Unless otherwise requested by both parties, the parties will be scheduled for separate education seminar sessions.

(d) Fees and policies pertaining to custody conciliation shall be adopted from time to time by administrative orders of court. A copy of said policies and fee schedule will be available at the Domestic Relations office/custody conciliator's office.

(e) The Complaint for Custody and scheduling Order or the Petition for Modification and scheduling Order, in addition to the Order to attend the divided families seminar, shall be served by the moving party in accordance with the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure.