

RHODE ISLAND FAMILY COURT
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 94-2

RE: DIVORCE CASES PROVIDENCE COUNTY

Effective parenting is challenging under the best of circumstances. During and after a divorce parenting can be especially difficult, and the stress of this time often has an adverse effect on children, as well as parents. The Family Court recognizes this and has worked with St. Mary's Home for Children to develop a pilot educational program aimed at helping parents reduce the negative impact of divorce on their children. The program is called "Divided Yet United", and it will be held at the Garrahy Judicial Complex in the upcoming months.

To inform parties filing for divorce about this program, effective February 1, 1994, any party filing for divorce in Providence County, in which there are minor children, must provide the Domestic Relations Clerk's Office, at the time of filing, with one addressed envelope. The envelopes must be at least 9" by 4" in size, and it should be addressed to the plaintiff. The Clerk's Office will use this envelope to send the plaintiff information on the above mentioned parenting program. In addition, when the Clerk's Office receives a return of service notification on the respondent, the office will send the respondent information on this program.

Attached to this administrative order is a general overview of "Divided Yet United".

Date

2/4/94

Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr.
Chief Judge

DIVIDED YET UNITED
A PROGRAM FOR DIVORCING PARENTS PROVIDED BY
ST. MARY'S HOME FOR CHILDREN

The Family Court endorses "Divided Yet United", an educational program to help parents reduce the negative effects of divorce on their children. The program underscores the need for both parents to have positive involvement with their children during and after divorce. Some of the issues discussed include: children's typical reactions to divorce, the developmental needs of children, how to help children cope with divorce, and pitfalls to avoid. The program also provides parents with practical communication skills to help them deal more effectively with their children as well as with their former spouse around issues involving the children.

The five hour program is offered in two sessions, each lasting two and one-half hours. The program will be held at the Garrahy Judicial Complex, One Dorrance Plaza, Providence, Rhode Island, and will run from 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Exact dates for the upcoming sessions of the program have not been established.

This is an educational program; it is not a counseling or therapy session. Legal issues are not discussed. Parents may attend the program together, or special arrangements can be made for parents to attend separate sessions, if requested. Parents who have attended this program have found it to be helpful even if the other parent does not attend.

There is a \$25.00 per person fee to participate in this program, but for those unable to afford this amount, a sliding fee based on ability to pay is available. For further information about "Divided Yet United" contact St. Mary's Home for Children at 353-3900.