

NEXT STEP COPARENTING OF MARIN

Consent to Participate in Next Step 101

Next Step 101 is an educational program for parents going through the process of separation and/or divorce.

Purpose of the Class

I understand that Next Step 101 is a skill-based educational class. It is not psychotherapy, mediation, or evaluation. It does not provide legal advice. The class is carefully structured and organized to teach separated parents ways of communicating effectively. The goal is to equip you with the skills you need to work together for the sake of your children, in the spirit of a business partnership.

About Confidentiality

1. We may communicate with the Court about the class participation of parents who have been court ordered to attend the class. However, this communication is limited to a report about the parent's attendance. We do not write detailed reports to the court, nor do we keep any records of class participation other than attendance records.
2. Complete confidentiality is never assured when individuals attend a class in a group setting. Unless both you and your co-parent sign our release of confidential information form, however, we will not discuss your class participation in Next Step 101 with anyone other than the Court; including attorneys, mediators, parenting coordinators, new spouses or significant others. We will not testify in court about either parent's class participation unless the Court itself orders us to do so. Similarly, we will not release any records. By signing below you agree not to request or subpoena these records.

3. I understand that the instructors are mandated child/elder abuse reporters, and that they are required by law to report any suspicion of child abuse or elder abuse to the appropriate agency.

Impartiality of the Instructors

We try to be supportive and helpful to each coparent taking this class. However, it is important that we do not "take sides" with one coparent over another. Because it is essential for us to be neutral, we will politely set limits if one of you tries to discuss the other coparent in detail. Similarly, we will not conduct conversations with you about your divorce by telephone during the period Next Step 101 is taking place. Individual consultation sessions with one or both co-parents may take place after the end of the course.

Tuition

Tuition is due in full at the beginning of the first class session. Because Next Step 101 is not psychotherapy, this service cannot be billed to your insurance company.

Consent

Once you have read this contract, sign in the space below. If you prefer, you may bring the contract with you to the first class session to ask questions and then sign the contract.

My signature below indicates that I have read and understood this contract. I agree to participate in the class.

I understand that I am free to withdraw from the class at any time; however, there will be no tuition refund should I choose to withdraw.

Signature

Date

Printed Parent Name