Bill of Rights for Children whose Parents are Separated

1. The right not to be asked to "choose sides" between their parents.
2. The right not to be told the details of he legal proceedings going on between their parents.
3. The right not to be told "bad things" about the other parent's personality or character.
4. The right to privacy when talking to either parent on the telephone.
5. The right not to be "cross-examined" by one parent after spending time with the other parent.
6. The right not to be asked to be a messenger from one parent to the other.
7. The right not to be asked by one parent to tell the other parent untruths.
8. The right not to be used as a confidant regarding adult matters.
9. The right to express feelings, whatever those feelings may be.
10. The right to choose ***not*** to express certain feelings.
11. The right to be protected from parental "warfare."
12. The right not to be made to feel guilty for loving ***both*** parents.

– Author Unknown

A.C.T.~For the Children

is a
Certified Parent Education Program
meeting the guidelines of the
New York State Parent Education
and Awareness Program

A.C.T. ~ **For the Children** is dedicated to reducing the negative impact of a parental breakup on children. The primary goal is to provide parents with information and skills for protecting their children by reducing conflict, strengthening parent-child relationships, and fostering children's resilience and healthy development.

This program is a collaborative effort of the Seventh Judicial District, the legal, judicial, mental health and mediation communities, and the County of Monroe. It serves the areas of the Seventh Judicial District, as well as all other areas that may not have a parent education program that is conveniently located for the participants to attend.

A.C.T.~For the Children
(585) 428-1930
ACT@nycourts.gov

ASSISTING
CHILDREN THROUGH
TRANSITION

A.C.T.~

For the Children

Reducing the stress of a breakup on children

"I can see a big difference. They can talk to each other now without yelling. That helps a lot. My stomach doesn't hurt as much and I can concentrate better in school."

–Child

"The program changed our lives. It gave us all a new direction...one of hope and healing. I see too many people oozing with anger...I don't want to go there anymore."

–Mother

What is A.C.T.~For the Children?

A.C.T.~For the Children (**A**ssisting **C**hildren through **T**ransition) is a program designed to educate divorcing or separating parents about the impact of their breakup on their children. The primary goal of the program is to teach parents ways they can reduce the stress of family changes and protect their children from the negative effects of ongoing parental conflict.

What is the Program Format?

The program consists of two classes held one week apart. Classes are limited to 40 people. You will not be placed in the same class as the other parent of your child(ren).

Who are the Instructors?

Classes are conducted by psychologists, family therapists, social workers, judges, lawyers, and mediators in a classroom setting. Instructors will provide information through lecture, videotape, role-play, and discussion.

Are there any Materials Provided?

Participants will be provided with a ***Resource Manual,*** which lists where parents and children can find help and support, and a ***Parent's Handbook***, which reviews the material covered in class and provides additional information and reading lists.

Is there a Fee for the Program?

Yes, there is a **non-refundable fee**. You may be eligible for a reduced fee or scholarship as noted on the Confidential Enrollment Form (inserted in this brochure).

Is this Program for Everyone?

A.C.T.~For the Children ***may not be appropriate when domestic abuse is present.*** If you are involved with an abusive partner, you should call the Program Administrator at (585) 428-1930 for further information as you may choose not to attend (opt out) if domestic violence is a concern for you.

May I Attend Classes even if the Court has not sent me to Parent Education?

Yes. A.C.T.~For the Children accepts individuals who enroll on their own or who may have been referred to the program by an attorney, mediator, mental health professional, or other concerned individual.

Is there a Residence Requirement to Attend A.C.T.~For the Children?

This program primarily serves people who live in Monroe County and the other seven counties (Cayuga, Livingston, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates) in the Seventh Judicial District. However, the program will also accept people from other areas.

Will this Program Satisfy a Directive to Attend Parent Education by a Court in Another State?

Attendance at A.C.T.~For the Children may be recognized by other states that require parents who are separating or divorcing to attend a parent education program. You should check with the court in the other state to find out its policy and whether attending A.C.T.~For the Children will satisfy its requirements.

How will the Court that sent me to Parent Education know that I Complied?

The Program Administrator will notify the Court that sent you to Parent Education when you have completed both classes or when you have chosen not to attend due to domestic violence concerns. The Court will not be told whether you complied by attendance or opt out. In both situations, you will be provided a Certificate of Compliance so you have proof that you complied with the judge's order or referral.

What if I'm Late or Miss a Class?

Classes start promptly. Anyone who is more than fifteen minutes late will not be admitted. If you fail to attend a class for which you have enrolled, you will need to submit a new enrollment form. You will not be enrolled in another class until all new applicants have first been placed.

How do I Enroll?

Advanced enrollment is required for the classes that you wish to attend. To enroll you must submit the Confidential Enrollment Form (inserted in this brochure) together with all of the other required information as set forth on the Confidential Enrollment Form. You will be sent a letter confirming that you are enrolled and advising you of the class location with a map and other pertinent information. **You are not enrolled until you receive a confirmation letter.**

Who do I Contact with Questions?

A.C.T.~For the Children Program Administrator
Telephone: (585) 428-1930
E-Mail: ACT@nycourts.gov

"It was such an excellent program. The message of healing and rebuilding a positive parenting relationship is so important...there will be two healthier children because of it."

–Father