

Meeting in the Middle

Positive Parenting in Two Households

What is it?

Raising a child in different homes can be challenging at times. FairField's Meeting in the Middle class focuses on co-parenting through separation and divorce. It provides parents with the opportunity to think critically about what is best for their child and how they can work together to accomplish it.

Some of the topics that will be discussed are...

- Developmental stages of children
- Options for dealing with conflict
- Improving communication skills
- Co-parenting and parallel parenting

How much does it cost?

The class is free for individuals who make less than \$30,000 **OR** are a client of Department of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE)

AND agree to have their name released for grant purposes

For all others, it is \$50 for the class, payable before the class begins.

Where is it?

FairField Center

When is it?

Third Monday of the month from 4-8 p.m.

Contact Info

If you have an email I can send you the link to sign up for the class.

I don't have an email/access to a computer

If you do not have an email or access to a computer I can assist you in the registration process. Do you have a few minutes?

Is there food?

No food will not be provided however we do recognize that it is dinner time and you are welcome to bring a bagged supper.

Is there childcare?

We currently do not provide childcare. Please do not bring your children.

Does the other parent need to attend the class also?

We strongly recommend that the both parents attend the class, but you each make that decision independently.

Do I have to be in the same class as the other parent?

No. When you register you are asked if you want to attend class with the other parent. If the answer is no, you will be asked for the name of the other parent so that we can ensure you are in separate classes.

Can I attend if I am not the biological parent?

We find it beneficial if all parties who have custody of the child attend Meeting in the Middle

Should I take the class before or after mediation?

We strongly recommend you take the class prior to mediation as it helps build a foundation and skill set that can be useful in the mediation process. Participating in the class before mediation may make the process more effective, but there is benefit to taking the class at anytime.

Do I need to be a FairField or DCSE client in order to take the class?

No the class is open to the public and is for anyone wanting to learn more about co-parenting in separate households.

What if I was referred by judge and do not attend?

We can not predict how a judge would rule nor can we provide legal advice. If you attend the class you will receive a letter stating that you attended to show the court.

Why should I take the Class?

The class helps parents understand how their words and actions have an impact on their children. It provides information to co-parents so that they may provide a healthy and happy lifestyle for their children. Although separation will change how families work, co-parents can still be a source of stability and comfort for their children as long as they commit to resolving conflict within their shared parenting in a peaceful and productive manner.