

FCW Welcome to Level II Co-Parenting Class Video Script

This is Judge Kenneth Jacobi of the Morguson Circuit Court.

I want to take a few minutes to introduce you to our county's Level II co-parenting class. This class is part of our effort to show parents how they can save money, live in the security of making their own decisions, move to a better future, and help everyone in their family by one thing.

And that one thing is building the good relationship between separated parents that will benefit both their children and themselves.

Unfortunately, there are many unhelpful messages for separated and divorced parents on how they are supposed to remain in conflict. These messages may come from television, statements from misinformed family and friends, and sometimes even the legal system. They may be fed further by parents' own hurt and preoccupation with past failings.

But wherever these messages come from, they hurt children and parents alike.

In this class, you will have an opportunity to pick a different path—a better path. It's one where you can see all the ways that you and your children will be better off when you make a better decision. It's a decision to:

1. Notice and reduce children's losses rather than stay focused on one's own hurt and claims of rights.
2. Build the future rather than argue the past.
3. Learn to relate as well as possible together rather than blame each other.

The decision to have a bad breakup is not a logical decision. Certainly many smart people, ones who are capable in many other areas of their lives, that make exactly that decision. But it's an illogical one. It's one that puts:

1. Wasting money and energy above preserving money and energy,
2. Arguing about the past over building the future, and
3. Hurting children and oneself over helping children and oneself.

I hope you'll notice in this class the many ways in which even by making better choices yourself—regardless of what your co-parent decides to do—you can be the hero that your children need. Even one restrained and responsible parent can give children that all-important gift of a safe sanctuary where they are free to love and miss both parents and to go about the many tasks of growing up happy and healthy.

Consider using this class along with other help. That may include counseling, many of the links on FamilyCourtWebsite.org and UpToParents.org, and even time with people who have achieved a good co-parenting partnership after their separations.

All the Morguson County judges hope you will take advantage of this class as an opportunity to build a better future—for yourself as well as for children who have no choice but to live in the world you create for them.