

# Families Beyond Conflict

## What is Families Beyond Conflict?

Families Beyond Conflict is a program for parents who are having difficulty communicating after a divorce. Both parents are referred to this program by the court and are required to attend.



- Remember that your children did not ask for this divorce, and they need all the help they can get to understand what has happened to their parents.
- Remember that your children may not share the anger you have for the other parent.
- Remember that patience, love and understanding is the best way to help your children survive this life experience.

## What are the goals for Families Beyond Conflict?

- To establish strongly shared values regarding the "best interests" of the child. Parents who chronically fight following divorce have forsaken the best interests of their children.
- To develop information and skills in negotiation and in managing conflict in a problem-solving manner.
- To help parents resolve their conflicts outside the courtroom.

## What are the learning objectives for Families Beyond Conflict?

- To become more informed about the impact of divorce and separation on parents and children.
- To develop a better understanding of dealing with conflict.
- To become more aware of communication styles and ways to improve communication among all adults involved in children's lives.

## What should I expect when attending Families Beyond Conflict?

Participants meet in a small interactive group with other parents on six consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Porter County Courthouse.

Two trained facilitators begin the course with a program overview, a brief discussion, and two videos which illustrate the impact of divorce and conflict on children.

The last five classes involve reading and exercises to demonstrate effective problem-solving and conflict resolution. Methods include role-playing, reading and discussion. The belief is, if behavior changes and constructive rewards follow, the negative behavior will disappear.

The cost is \$200 per attendee, payable before the first class by money order only, made payable to Families Beyond Conflict and mailed to 901 S. Woodland Ave., Michigan City, IN 46360.

It is imperative that you are on time, complete the full twelve hours, and pay the fee. If you do not satisfy the course requirements, the court will be notified.

