



Circuit Court of the Second Circuit - THE JUDICIARY - STATE OF HAWAII

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Peter T. Cahill

Chief Judge, Second Circuit
Senior Family Court Judge

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TO: All attorneys practicing in the 2nd Judicial Circuit District, Family and Circuit Courts; and all person/parents who have minor children in common and who have a matrimonial, divorce, paternity, or custody proceeding.

FROM: Peter T. Cahill, Chief Judge, Senior Family Court Judge, Second Circuit

DATE: July 17, 2024

**SUBJECT: MANDATORY ATTENDANCE OF JUDICIARY SPONSORED PROGRAM:
"KIDS FIRST" (IN-PERSON/ONLINE)**

The Kids First Program is a mandatory educational program for parents and their children which began over 34 years ago with the help of Honorable Douglas S. McNish (retired), and has expanded statewide and nationwide. KIDS FIRST targets families going through divorce, separation or custody disputes. It is designed to help parents understand the effects of separation or divorce on their children and to help parents and children cope with the changes that their families will go through. It also provides available resources to children and families, and to remind parents of positive-co parenting guidelines.

All divorce action plaintiffs and defendants, who are residing on the island of Maui and who have minor children from the marriage, are **ORDERED** to attend the judiciary sponsored in-person program, KIDS FIRST. Such plaintiffs and defendants are **FURTHER ORDERED to bring with them all minor child(ren) between six (6) and eighteen (18) years of age** and all are required to attend the program on the date assigned.

Parties residing on the islands of Moloka'i and Lāna'i or out of state are not required to attend the KIDS FIRST in-person program but are ordered to attend the on-line program.

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY, EVEN IF THERE IS NO DISPUTE ABOUT CUSTODY AND VISITATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MINOR CHILD(REN). Requests for exemption from attending the program should be addressed to the Family Court (808) 244-2770.

No complaint for divorce which alleges the parties have minor children shall be filed unless accompanied by:

1. The original, and at least one (1) copy of a completed, KIDS FIRST Information Sheet; and
2. A copy of this memo regarding Mandatory Attendance of Judiciary Sponsored Program, KIDS FIRST, attached to the complaint.

