

REFERENCE TITLE: **divorce; waiting period; educational programs**

State of Arizona
Senate
Forty-ninth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2010

SB 1199

Introduced by
Senator Gray L; Representative Barto: Senators Harper, Verschoor;
Representatives Barnes, Burges, Crump, Goodale, Lesko, Montenegro, Seel

AN ACT

**AMENDING SECTIONS 25-329 AND 25-351, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO
DOMESTIC RELATIONS.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 25-329, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 25-329. Waiting period

5 The court shall not consider a submission of a motion supported by
6 affidavit or hold a trial or hearing on an application for a decree of
7 dissolution of marriage or legal separation until ~~sixty~~ ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY
8 days after the date of service of process or the date of acceptance of
9 process.

10 Sec. 2. Section 25-351, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

11 25-351. Domestic relations education; plan; administration

12 A. ~~On or before January 1, 1997,~~ The superior court in each county
13 shall adopt and implement an educational program for the purpose of educating
14 persons about the ~~impacts that~~ IMPACT OF divorce, ~~the restructuring of~~
15 ~~families and judicial involvement have~~ on ADULTS AND children.

16 B. The supreme court shall adopt minimum standards for educational
17 programs. The presiding judge of the superior court in each county shall
18 submit an educational program plan to the supreme court for approval. The
19 plan shall be consistent with the minimum standards that are adopted by the
20 supreme court, including the length and nature of the program, the
21 qualifications of program providers and the means by which the program will
22 be evaluated and maintained. THESE STANDARDS SHALL REQUIRE THAT EDUCATIONAL
23 PROGRAMS AT A MINIMUM INCLUDE INSTRUCTION RELATED TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 24 1. THE EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, FINANCIAL, PHYSICAL AND OTHER SHORT-
25 TERM AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF DIVORCE ON ADULTS AND CHILDREN.
26 2. OPTIONS AVAILABLE AS ALTERNATIVES TO DIVORCE.
27 3. RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPROVE OR STRENGTHEN MARRIAGE.
28 4. THE LEGAL PROCESS OF DIVORCE AND OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR MEDIATION.
29 5. RESOURCES AVAILABLE AFTER DIVORCE.

30 C. The presiding judge of the superior court or a judge who is
31 designated by the presiding judge shall administer the program in each county
32 and may provide or contract with political subdivisions in this state or
33 private entities to provide the program to participants who are required to
34 attend.