

Courts' and Co-Parenting Educators' Use of UpToParents.org¹

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Click [Here](#) for Judge Michael P. Scopelitis's two-minute explanation of why his jurisdiction is among those requiring use of these resources.

Progressive judges and co-parenting educators realize that many parents come into their divorce and paternity cases with years of education in exactly the wrong ways to address their co-parenting challenges. Many parents have been persuaded by the popular culture and misinformed family and friends that personal and even legal battles are the preferred route to good outcomes when raising children between separate homes.

The free websites [UpToParents.org](#) (for divorce cases) and [ProudToParent.org](#) (for paternity cases) are powerful tools to inform and inspire parents about the advantages of child-focused co-parenting. Parents can be referred to the sites as stand-alone resources or (as we think should be the standard) as preparation for live co-parenting classes. In either case, the sites are uniquely effective means of conveying the advantages of more peaceful and cooperative co-parenting. Simple referral mechanisms are available at [Courts' and Co-Parenting Educators' Referrals to UpToParents and ProudToParent](#).

I fully endorse these Commitments for use with all divorcing parents. Too often, the message to divorcing parents is that they should simply refrain from badmouthing the other parent. These Commitments communicate that parents have a responsibility to actively support and nurture the child's relationship with the other parent—and they stimulate parents to consider numerous ways to do so for their children. Bravo.”
Janet R. Johnston, Ph.D., In the Name of the Child; Impasses of Divorce; Through the Eyes of Children

We encourage all judges and co-parenting educators to try [UpToParents.org](#) as hypothetical parents in divorce (even a few minutes on the Commitments work and on the “Parents Corner” can suffice). *It can be especially helpful for judges and educators to task their staffs and program personnel to do this work and report back on their reactions.*

A free public tool with enormous promise for minimizing harm to children.
Hon. Brent E. Dickson, Justice, Indiana Supreme Court

More information on building better outcomes for families through the use of these websites is available from the following links.

1. [Three-Minute Video Introduction for Co-Parenting Educators](#)
2. [Professionals' Introduction to UpToParents.org](#)
3. [The Paradigm Shifts to the Healing Divorce](#)

¹ An electronic copy of this article is available on Part II of the “Professionals Corner” link of UpToParents.org. All underlined links can be opened from that electronic copy.

4. [Sample UpToParents Agreed Commitments](#) (in English and Spanish)
5. [Sample UpToParents Exercise Responses](#)
6. [Sample Feedback from Professionals and Parents about UpToParents](#)

These websites have proven to be a remarkable help to parents in mediation, parenting coordination, Collaborative cases, and other settings. But, there is no more logical place than as part of early co-parenting education—either as the entirety of that education or, as we think preferable, as a precursor to live co-parenting classes.

Presently about 40 American counties strongly recommend this work, and about 15 outright require it. Over 100,000 parents have already used these sites.

UpToParents is the Google® of online education for separated parents. It's by far the best, it's universally available, and it's free. It sets the focus squarely on children and their needs. It's truly ingenious and transforming.

Ann M. Schelle, MS, LPC

National Coordinator and Trainer, TransParenting (live co-parenting classes in over 150 locations)

For counties not offering live classes to parents in divorce and paternity cases, automatic referrals to these sites are crucial, being the only available co-parenting education. For jurisdictions sending parents to one of these sites as a precursor to live classes, there is no call to change any class curriculum. These sites will serve as a powerful adjunct to, and excellent preparation for, classes already in place.

Without question, the single most important thing parents can do to prepare for our divorce adjustment classes is to complete UpToParents.org. We'd never again write or teach a co-parenting class without this parent preparation as a component.
Michael Sheehan, Ph.D., Child Advocates in Divorce (CAID)

Co-parenting educators are also welcome to play at their classes videos from the “Parents Corner” link. Two of the most popular are [**3 Girls' Invisible Pain**](#) and [**Bonnie and Ross**](#).

We encourage courts to consider joining those that make these free resources automatic referrals at the start of all divorce and paternity cases. For many families, the benefits are remarkable.

Interested professionals are welcome to contact us for further information.

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