

Court Offers Divorce Education for Children Program

When adults go through a divorce, there are programs available to assist them in making the transition, including a class offered through the Utah State Courts. But what about the children of divorcing parents? Nearly 12,000 Utah children are impacted by divorce each year, including more than 5,000 children in Salt Lake County. A gap exists between programs that are available for adults and classes available for children of divorcing parents. Because of this gap children are often left confused and full of mixed emotions when going through the divorce process.

To fill this need, the Utah State Courts has developed a program called Divorce Education for Children. This class is available for children ages 9 to 12 and offered free of charge. The program's curriculum provides children with skills they can use to better communicate their feelings to parents and is designed to minimize the adverse effects divorce has on children. Mental health professionals teach the class with assistance from state court judges and commissioners. Classes are offered in Logan, Ogden, Provo and Salt Lake City. To register your child or children for an upcoming Divorce Education for Children class in your area go to www.utcourts.gov/specproj/dived/children.html. For more information, please call (801)578-3897 or email Dakota Matherly at dakotam@utcourts.gov