

## SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO Hall of Justice and Records 400 County Center Redwood City, CA 94063

Hon. George A. Miram Presiding Judge

Hon. Robert D Foiles Assistant Presiding Judge

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Redwood City, CA **DATE:** July 18, 2005

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Hon. Mark R. Forcum, Chair, Court Outreach Committee, 650-363-7835

## **Court Launches Online Orientation for Families in Family Law Court**

Presiding Judge George A. Miram announced today that the Court is offering an online orientation to help parents learn about Family Court mediation. The orientation is mandatory for all parents who have child custody and visitation issues. The orientation, and accompanying parent handbook, includes important information about logistics and resources, helping children through parents' separation, and developing a parenting plan. A video further explains the court process and illustrates the need for parents to keep their children out of adult conflicts.

"This orientation," according to Judge Miram, "is a positive way for parents to learn how to come to court prepared to discuss parenting plans for their children. Moreover, this orientation gives parents the tools necessary to co-parent their children even though they are no longer together. This helps children who are caught in the middle. By offering the orientation online, parents can access it when it is convenient for them." The orientation is also available in the Court's Self-Help Centers, where computers are available with Internet access. It will also be offered in a classroom setting later this year.

The orientation is located on the Court's website, www.sanmateocourt.org/fcs

