

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1352

By: Wright, Nance, Liotta and
Perry of the House

and

Williamson of the Senate

An Act relating to marriage and family; requiring certain parties to obtain marriage counseling prior to issuance of a decree for dissolution of a marriage or for a legal separation; providing qualifications of counselor; providing form; providing procedures for submission; prohibiting certain filings; providing for costs; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 109.3 of Title 43, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Within ninety (90) days prior to the issuance of a decree for dissolution of a marriage or for a legal separation, each party to the marriage must attend at least one (1) hour of marriage counseling conducted by a licensed marital and family therapist, licensed professional counselor, licensed behavioral practitioner or any other person authorized to perform marriage counseling.

B. After successful completion of the marriage counseling, the person conducting the counseling shall give to the party attending the counseling a form signed by the counselor and the party that the specific party so named has successfully completed the marriage counseling.

C. The form specified by subsection B of this section shall be filed with the decree for the dissolution of a marriage or for a legal separation.

D. A decree for a dissolution of a marriage or for a legal separation may not be filed unless the form designating completion of the counseling is attached and verified.

E. The petitioner for a dissolution of a marriage or legal separation shall be responsible for payment of the marriage counseling unless otherwise ordered by the court.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2005.

Passed the House of Representatives the 21st day of February, 2005.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2005.

Presiding Officer of the Senate