

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 10, 2010

House Bill No. 2543

HOUSE BILL NO. 2543 - By: WRIGHT (JOHN) of the House.

An Act relating to marriage; amending 43 O.S. 2001, Section 107.2, which relates to court authority to require certain educational programs; making marital counseling mandatory; specifying requirements; requiring filing of certain proof with petition; and providing an effective date.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 43 O.S. 2001, Section 107.2, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 Section 107.2 A. In all actions for divorce, the parties seeking a divorce shall
4 attend marital counseling before the filing of the petition. The parties shall receive no
5 less than one (1) hour of divorce counseling from a licensed therapist or faith-based
6 counselor. Proof of completion of requirement shall be filed with the petition for divorce.

7 B. In all actions for divorce, separate maintenance, guardianship, paternity,
8 custody or visitation, including modifications or enforcements of a prior court order,
9 where the interest of a child under eighteen (18) years of age is involved, the court may
10 require all adult parties to attend an educational program concerning, as appropriate,
11 the impact of separate parenting and coparenting on children, the implications for
12 visitation and conflict management, development of children, separate financial

1 responsibility for children and such other instruction as deemed necessary by the court.

2 The program shall be educational in nature and not designed for individual therapy.

3 ~~B.~~ C. Each judicial district may adopt its own local rules governing the ~~program~~
4 implementation of subsections A and B of this section.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2010.

6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, dated 02-09-10 - DO PASS.