

HOUSE BILL NO. 1420

Introduced by

Representatives Sitte, Kerzman, Koppelman, Vigesaa

Senators Christmann, Dever

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 14-05 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to a waiting period for divorce and a mandatory seminar on the effects of
3 divorce on children.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 14-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 **Divorce proceeding - Waiting period - Mandatory seminar on effects of divorce on**
8 **children.**

- 9 1. In an action for divorce on the ground of irreconcilable differences and which
10 involves the issue of child custody, child support, or visitation, the district court may
11 not issue a final order for at least one hundred eighty days from the date of filing
12 the petition. Within the one hundred eighty-day waiting period, the adult parties to
13 the action shall participate in a seminar on the effects of divorce on children.
- 14 2. The seminar, which may be provided by a public or private entity, must provide ten
15 hours of instruction regarding the following issues:
 - 16 a. Information on the developmental stages of a child;
 - 17 b. Adjustment of a child to parental separation;
 - 18 c. Dispute resolution and conflict management;
 - 19 d. Guidelines for visitation;
 - 20 e. Stress reduction in children; and
 - 21 f. Cooperative parenting.
- 22 3. The court may not require both parents to attend the same course at the same
23 time. Each party shall arrange for participation in the seminar. The parties are

- 1 responsible for the fees or costs of the course. The court may assess the fees or
2 costs as the court deems equitable.
- 3 4. A final decree may not be granted or a final order may not be entered until each
4 party submits to the court certification of completion of the seminar.