

Sixth District Court

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Dear Parents:

We've been reading the evaluation of our Focus on the Children class and find that 90% of the parents wish there could be a class for children who are also going through significant change as a result of divorces, modifications, custody issues, etc. In an effort to meet this desire, the Sixth District Court has implemented *Silver Linings, Coping Tools When Faced with Significant Change*. *Silver Linings* is a workshop designed for your children who are ages 6 through 17.

Lacy Parker, LMSW, Family Court Services Manager is providing direction for the workshop and guided by Master Level clinicians to facilitate and co-facilitate the workshop classes. The children are divided into specific workshops, depending on the number of children who attend and developmentally appropriate age groups. We will break the workshop into more differentiated groups if we have more children in one age group and have facilitators available. Each class is designed to help the children understand there are many emotions associated with divorce, custody issues, and other family law matters. We want the children to see that there are other children who have the same feelings and give them some tools to help them deal with these changes. Ideally, these tools may become useful in dealing with all kinds of changes throughout life.

Silver Linings will be held at the same time with the Focus on the Children workshops that parents are required to attend. We will provide a light dinner and/or snack, too! No pre-registration is required, signing in your children when arriving to the workshop will be necessary. For more information about the attendance of your children please contact Family Court Services Manager, Lacy Parker, at 236-7416. If your children have previously attended, they do not have to attend again. In addition, children may be excused from attendance for good cause. Keep in mind that 'they just don't want to go' is not a good cause. If there are significant logistical, medical, mental health, or safety concerns you may obtain a waiver of attendance. Contact Family Court Services for more information about obtaining a waiver.

We are committed to respecting the privacy of your child and your family. All discussions and activities of this workshop are confidential. Given the professional background and training of our facilitators, there are situations in which we might have to ethically and legally breach confidentiality. These situations include a child stating that someone has hurt or neglected him or her or a child expressing an intention to hurt himself or herself. Again, all the experiences and reactions shared by your child will be kept confidential within the limits mentioned above.

There is no cost for this workshop and handouts will be provided to each child that you may use as a workbook or reference. You may drop your children off at the Bannock County Courthouse Court Room 108 between 5:45 and 6:00 p.m. and pick them up after the Focus on the Children class.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzanne H. Johnson".