

DIVORCE ORIENTATION PROGRAM SUMMARY

CALENDAR YEAR 2015

The Divorce Orientation Program for Parents began May, 2007. The statute requires all divorcing couples with children under the age of eighteen to attend a one session, one hour class describing the process of divorce and the effects on all parties involved. The class is held in time frames to accommodate both working and non-working parents. State-wide class schedules are available at <https://www.utcourts.gov/specproj/dived/>. The goal of the class is to educate parents regarding the effects of divorce, including the objectives below:

- Options available as alternatives to divorce.
- Resources available from courts and administrative agencies for resolving custody and support issues without filing for divorce.
- Resources available to improve or strengthen the marriage
- A discussion of the positive and negative consequences of divorce.
- A discussion of the process of divorce.
- Options available for proceeding with a divorce, including, mediation, collaborative law, and litigation.
- A discussion of post-divorce resources.
- A discussion of the stages of marriage.

The Administrative Office of the Courts contracts with mental health professionals throughout the state to teach these classes. Following are the numbers statewide of parents who attended class January 1, 2015- December 31, 2015.

- Total parents attending Divorce Orientation in 2015: **8425**
- Monthly average of parents attending Divorce Orientation in 2015: **702**
- Total "live" providers across the state: **9**

Classes are evaluated by participants at the end of each session. Attached is the summary of the evaluations for the past year.

DIVORCE ORIENTATION ONLINE PROGRAM SUMMARY

CALENDAR YEAR 2015

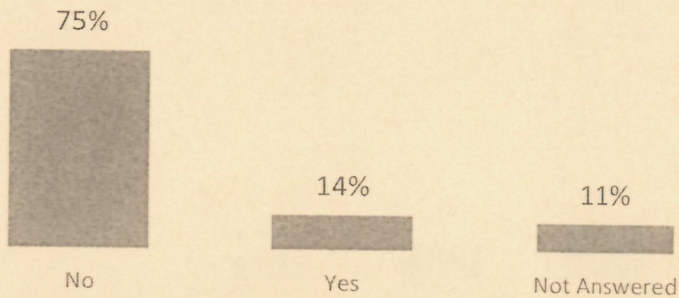
House Bill 323 went into effect on July 1, 2014. The bill directed the creation of an *online* Divorce Orientation course for parents. This statute allowed all divorcing couples with children under the age of eighteen the option to attend an online course describing the process of divorce and the effects on all parties involved. Following the RFP process, Utah State University was selected as the provider for this course and a link to the course can be found at <https://usuextension.digitalchalk.com>. The goal of the class is to educate parents regarding the effects of divorce, including the objectives below:

- Options available as alternatives to divorce.
- Resources available from courts and administrative agencies for resolving custody and support issues without filing for divorce.
- Resources available to improve or strengthen the marriage
- A discussion of the positive and negative consequences of divorce.
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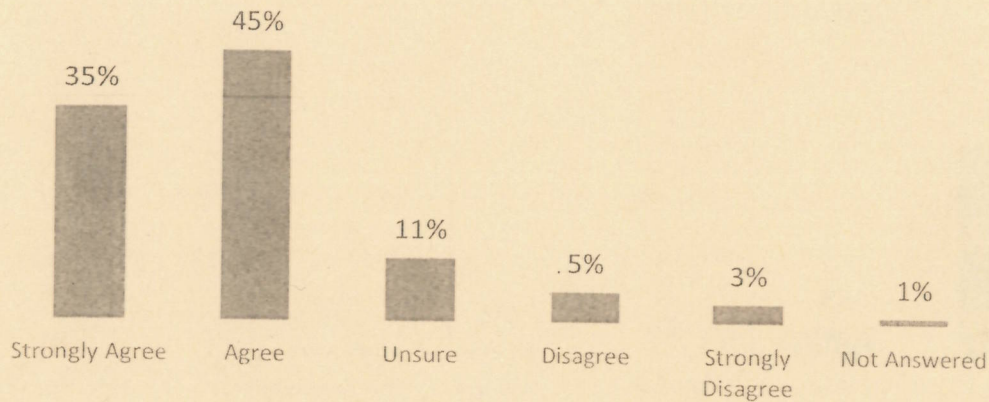
The following are the numbers statewide of parents who attended the online course January 1, 2015- December 31, 2015.

- Total parents attending Divorce Orientation Online: **1311**
- Total Divorce Orientation Online Spanish parents: **20**
- Total Divorce Orientation Online English parents: **1291**
- Average of online parents vs. those that attended live courses: **16%**

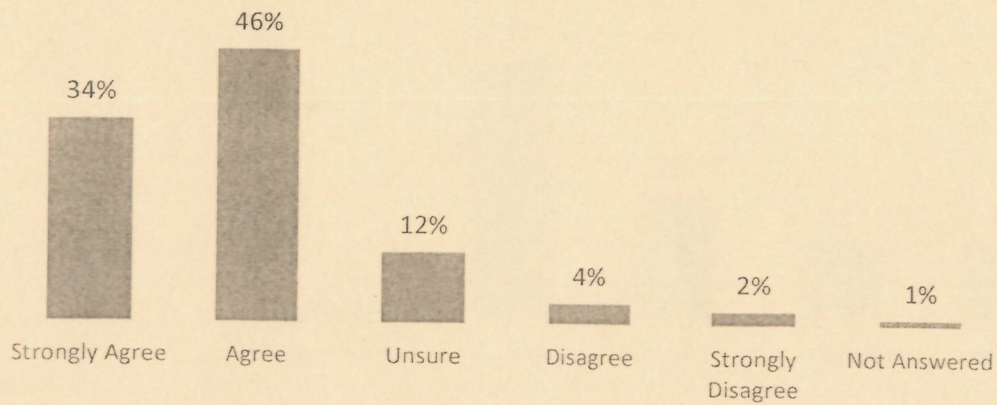
Q4. The information presented has caused me to reconsider divorcing my spouse.



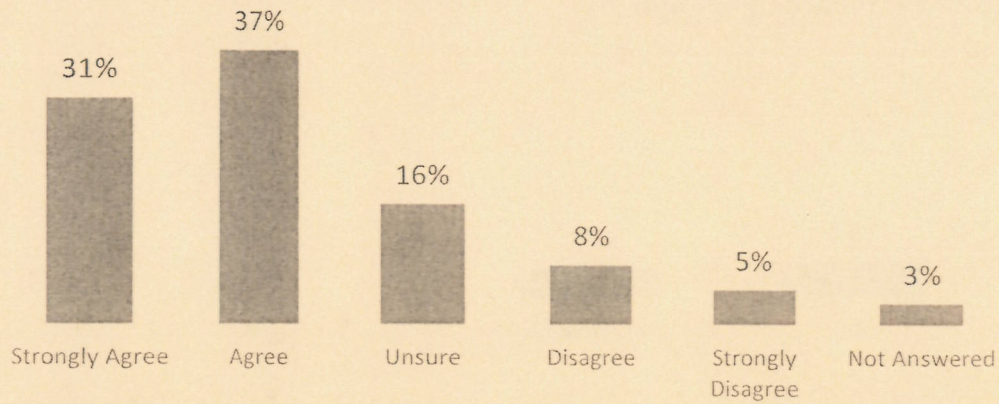
Q5. I learned about legal options from the video to avoid going to trial with my divorce.



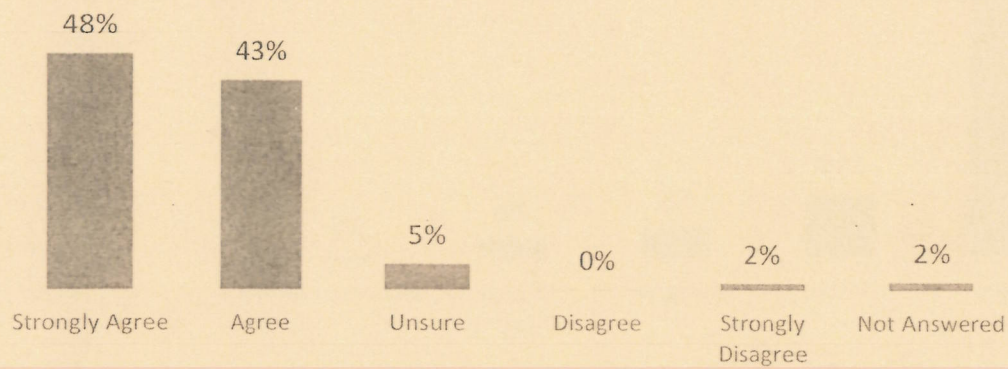
Q6. I learned about resources available to resolve custody and support issues without filing for divorce.



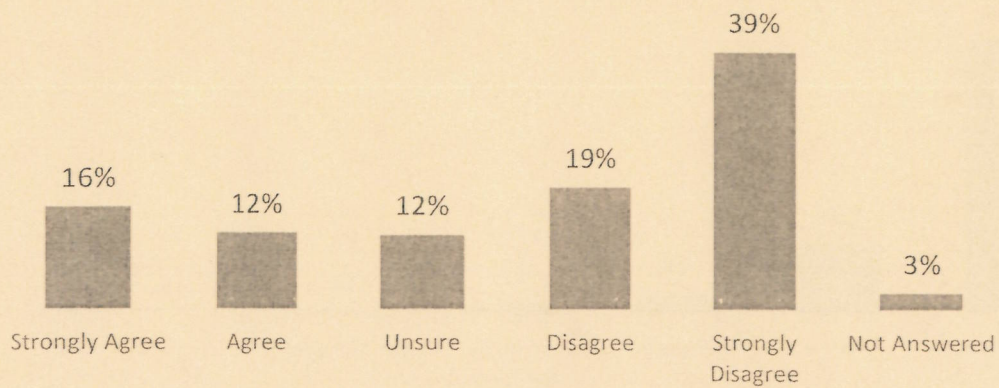
Q7. I learned about resources available to improve or strengthen my marriage.



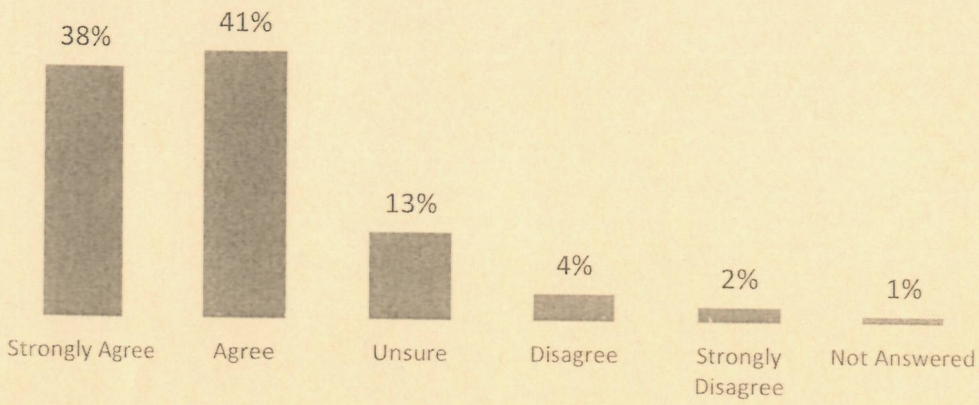
Q8. I learned about how a divorce will impact me and my family.



Q9. I plan to make a stronger effort to work out the differences with my spouse and stay married.



Q10. I learned about resources to help me cope after my divorce.



Q11. I think this divorce orientation course should be mandatory for anyone thinking about divorce.

