

## WHAT IS SMILE?

- **SMILE** - Start Making It Livable for Everyone - is an educational program for separating/divorced parents with children under the age of eighteen.
- It provides information to help parents better understand the effects of divorce.
- It assists parents with understanding the needs of their children.
- It helps parents learn what they can do to create a nurturing and safe environment so their children can recover from the divorce and feel good about themselves.
- It provides information to prevent destructive game-playing that is so common among divorced couples and their children.
- It helps parents gain problem solving skills.
- It lets parents know that they are not alone.

## WHY SMILE IS IMPORTANT?

- Divorce is a process over which children have no control. Children should not become its victims.
- When parents are under stress, it is harder to be in touch with their children's pain and anguish.
- It takes time, effort and planning on the part of parents to be able to provide for their children's needs.
- In the crisis of divorce, parents may put their children on hold while they attend to their own adult problems first.
- Sometimes separating/divorced parents find that their roles and expectations are undefined and cloudy.
- If handled properly, divorce need not be as devastating for children.

**SMILE** - Start Making It Livable for Everyone - helps to soften the blows of divorce.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How many classes must I attend?

Only 1 two-hour class.

### What is the cost? Free.

### Who should attend?

Parents who have recently separated or filed for divorce.

**Must I attend with my ex?** No, both parties do not have to attend the same session.

**Should I bring my children?** No, we ask that you do not bring your children. The topics covered can be upsetting for children.

The **SMILE** Program will be held on the following dates:

**April 20, 2009**

**June 9, 2009**

**November 10, 2009**

6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

River Raisin Room  
MSU Extension-Lenawee  
1040 S. Winter St., Adrian  
517.264.5300

Return Address

Place  
postage  
stamp  
here

MSU Extension-Lenawee County  
Attn: Melissa Burns—SMILE  
1040 S. Winter St., Suite 2020  
Adrian, MI 49221-3869

Please complete the registration form below and return to:

Melissa Burns  
MSU Extension-Lenawee County  
1040 S. Winter St., Suite 2020  
Adrian, MI 49221-3869

517.264.5300

Fax: 517.264.5317

### SMILE Program Registration

Please register me for the following session:

- Monday, April 20, 2009**
- Tuesday, June 9, 2009**
- Tuesday, November 10, 2009**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

# TOPICS COVERED

**--The Grief Process**

**--How Divorce Affects Children and Parents**

**--Developmental Reactions to Divorce**

**--Helping Children Adjust to Divorce**

### SPONSORED BY:

Michigan State University Extension  
Lenawee County

Lenawee County Circuit Court

Lenawee County Friend of the Court

Lenawee County Community Mental  
Health Authority

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status.



**SMILE**  
**S t a r t M a k i n g I t**  
**L i v a b l e f o r E v e r y o n e**

**An educational  
program for separating  
or divorcing parents  
with children under the  
age of eighteen.**