

# **SMILE: START MAKING IT LIVEABLE FOR EVERYONE**

***An educational program for separating/divorced parents with minor children sponsored by the Washtenaw County Circuit Court and Washtenaw County Friend of the Court***

## **What is SMILE?**

It provides information to help parents better understand the effects of divorce.

It assists parents to understand the needs of their children.

It helps parents learn what they can do to create a nurturing and safe environment so that 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 children's needs.

In the crisis of divorce, parents may put their children on hold while they attend to adult problems first.

Sometimes separating/divorced parents find that their roles and expectations are undefined and cloudy.

If handled properly, divorce need not be devastating for children.