

External Evaluation of Certevia’s Parenting and Divorce (PaD) On-line Program: Executive Summary

The external evaluation of Certevia’s *Parenting and Divorce (PaD)* course was designed to meet the requirements of “evidence base” from the Eighth Judicial District Court’s Las Vegas, NV and the State of Florida. The evaluation used sound, well designed and conducted research and repeated rigorous data gathering, with assessments collected from parents at three time-points to determine impacts of the program. The evaluation studied the effectiveness of the program in increasing knowledge of parenting with assessments validated by the evaluators. The evaluation found similar evidence across a variety of populations. The evaluation was conducted by independent researchers and the results were presented at peer-review conferences.

Meeting these “evidence base” requirements, the evaluation included analysis of parent knowledge assessment data and open-ended responses across three points in time. The findings consistently show positive impacts on the Parenting and Divorce (PaD) program on parent knowledge, retention of parent knowledge 30-days later, and qualitative data from parents show use of positive parenting skills. Figure ES-1 shows the positive impact of the program from baseline to the end-of-course (left-hand graph), where the total assessment had a gain of about six additional questions correct after the course. The figure also shows the positive impact of the program from baseline to 30-day follow-up (right-hand graph), where parents retained information from the course. These positive gains from baseline to end-of-course and baseline to 30-day follow-up were consistent across multiple subgroups of parents, from fathers and mothers, from race/ethnicity of parents, to the different age of parents.

Figure ES-1: Change in Parent Knowledge After the PaD Program and Sustained Change 30-days After the PaD Program

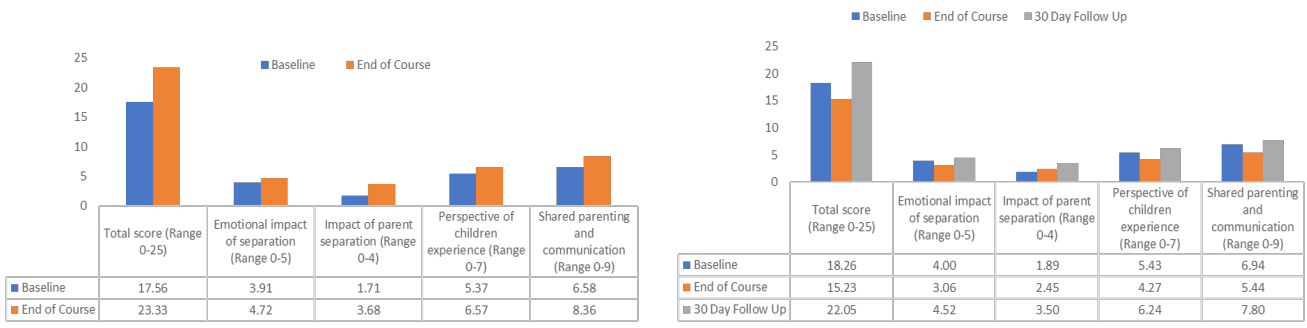


Figure note: Baseline to End-of-Course Total sample size N = 1,271. Baseline to 30-day Follow-up total sample size N = 197. All change scores (gain scores) were statistically significant at $p < .001$ on all outcomes.

In qualitative responses from parents, the analysis identified three themes: 1) Shifting the focus from the child or ex-spouse to themselves, 2) Moving from vague parenting goals to specific skill use, and 3) Using simple and easy to remember techniques. An example of these themes includes statements from one parent where before the start of the program the parent stated, “I just want to be able to continue on the positive path we have set for ourselves and focus on the children.” By the end of the course, the parent honed in on learning co-parenting skills with the ex-spouse. By the 30-day follow-up, the parent stated, “I have used coping with communication with my ex and remaining positive and flexible even if I did not agree.” This example showcases how the knowledge gained in the course was utilized into positive parenting behavior.

For more information on the evaluation and findings, go to: <https://certevia.com/>