

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

DARKE COUNTY, OHIO

Civil, Criminal and Domestic Relations Divisions

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LOCAL RULES OF PRACTICE

(Effective February 1, 2022)

THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF DARKE COUNTY, OHIO
Civil, Criminal, and Domestic Relations Divisions

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(Personnel list updated May, 2023)

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**LOCAL RULES OF PRACTICE IN THE
COMMON PLEAS COURT OF DARKE COUNTY, OHIO**

Civil, Criminal and Domestic Relations Divisions

RULE 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS; COSTS, DEPOSITS AND FEES

- A. Scope and Applicability of Rules.** The Local Rules of Practice hereafter set forth shall apply to the Civil, Criminal, and Domestic Relations Divisions of the Common Pleas Court of Darke County, Ohio, effective January 1, 2015.
- B. Purpose.** The purpose of these rules is to define local practices and procedures of this Court consistent with the Rules of Superintendence for Courts of Common Pleas, the Rules of Civil Procedure, the Rules of Criminal Procedure, and other rules as may be adopted and promulgated by the Ohio Supreme Court.
- C. Failure to Comply with Rules.** If any party or their counsel fails to comply with any Rules of the Courts for the state of Ohio, local rules, or Orders of the Court, the Court reserves the right to impose appropriate sanctions, including directed verdicts, dismissal of the cause of action or motion, striking pleadings, monetary fines, reimbursement to the other party for fees and/or expenses, and incarceration.
- D. Advance for Cost Deposit.** Unless an affidavit of inability to prepay or give security for costs is approved, no civil actions or proceedings shall be accepted for filing by the Clerk unless the party or parties offering the same for filing shall first deposit a sum of money to secure the payment of costs. Except as otherwise provided by law, when applicable, such advanced deposits shall be as periodically determined by the Court and published by the Clerk of Courts. The current cost deposit amounts (which may change from time to time) are attached hereto and incorporated herein. Counsel and parties are encouraged to periodically check with the Clerk of Courts to determine if any changes have been made.
- E. Affidavit of Inability to Pay Deposit.** An affidavit of inability to prepay or give security for costs shall include a detailed explanation of the financial resources and income of the affiant. An affiant should be able to satisfy the Court that the exception to the rule of prepayment is justifiable. Waiving a deposit does not preclude the Court from later assigning costs.
- F. Payment of Costs Upon Conclusion of Case.** Upon conclusion of a case, motion or other matter pending before the court, an Order will ordinarily be entered concerning which party shall bear the costs incurred. Where an agreed disposition of the matter is reached, the counsel and/or parties are encouraged to resolve the issue of the payment of court costs. In the absence of any agreement, the Court shall make such Orders as shall

be deemed appropriate regarding payment of court costs. Regardless of an allocation of costs by agreement or Order, the party initiating the case, motion or other matter is responsible for paying the costs due and is then entitled to seek reimbursement from the other party/parties. Calculating and billing court costs will be the responsibility of the Clerk of Courts and payment should be made to the Clerk of Courts within 30 days after the date of the statement. Failure to comply with Orders pertaining to the payment of costs may be the basis for a contempt of court action. Further, failure to make payment of costs may cause collection actions to be initiated by the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

- G. Compliance with Rules of Superintendence.** All parties and their counsel are directed to review the Rule 39 of the Rules of Superintendence which pertains to guidelines for completion of cases and motions. Compliance with this Rule is expected. Parties and their counsel should conduct discovery and other litigation preparation in order to comply with Rule 39. The failure to comply with Rule 39 of the Rules of Superintendence and this local rule may lead to dismissal of an action or motion.

RULE 2: PLEADINGS AND OTHER PAPERS

- A. Form and size of pleadings.** All pleadings and other papers shall be offered for filing without folding, suitable for flat-filing system, and shall be prepared upon letter size bond paper, except where the original document which is attached or offered as an exhibit, requires a different size. All pleadings must be bound together as one document by suitable method, including stapling or other binding; filing of loose papers is not permitted. In all filings, **a top margin of 2 ½ inches** shall be available on the first page to allow for endorsements thereon. Subsequent pages should have a top margin of no less than one inch. For the return of time-stamped copies by mail, a self-addressed, stamped envelope must be furnished to the Clerk. An additional copy of all pleadings shall be provided to the office of the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.
- B. Facsimile copies.** Effective March 1, 2021, the Court adopted Local Rule 12 (formerly Local Rule 13) permitting electronic delivery of documents for filing. Consistent with this Rule, the use of facsimile copies for electronic delivery to filing purposes is permitted. Further, when counsel wish to provide the Court with a copy of a pleading which was filed or to communicate to the Court, such electronic means of communications may be used.
- C. Identification of pleadings.** All pleadings and other papers shall be identified by a title which shall contain the name and party designation of the persons filing it, and the nature of the pleading or paper. For example:
1. Defendant John Smith Answer to the Amended Complaint
 2. Third Party Plaintiff Richard Roe's Answer to Defendant Sam Brown's Interrogatories
- D. Removal of files.** Originals of papers or pleadings filed in the Clerk's Office in pending cases shall not be removed therefrom unless Ordered by the Court for good cause shown and under terms discussed with the Clerk of Courts.
- E. Necessary pleadings.** The following pleadings are required in the respective actions:

Dissolution (with children) :

Petition
Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Affidavit
Separation Agreement (and Shared Parenting Plan, if applicable)
Affidavit of Property
Affidavit of Income and Expenses
Affidavit of Health Insurance
Notice to Attend Parenting Classes
Application for Child Support Services (IV-D application)
Child Support Computation Worksheets
Questionnaire (must be on yellow colored paper)
Social Security Number and Date of Birth information form (Court use only)

Divorce (with children and separation agreement) :

Complaint
Separation Agreement (and Spared Parenting Plan, if applicable)
Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Affidavit
Mutual Restraining Orders
Affidavit of Property
Affidavit of Income and Expenses
Affidavit of Health Insurance
Child Support Computation Worksheets
Notice to Attend Parenting Classes
Application for Child Support Services (IV-D application)
Questionnaire (must be on yellow colored paper)
Social Security Number and Date of Birth information form (Court use only)

Divorce (with children and no separation agreement):

Complaint
Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Affidavit
Mutual Restraining Orders
Affidavit of Property
Affidavit of Income and Expenses
Affidavit of Health Insurance
Notice to Attend Parenting Classes
Application for Child Support Services (IV-D application)
Questionnaire (must be on yellow colored paper)
Social Security Number and Date of Birth information form (Court use only)

Post Decree Motions and Any Action Involving Children and Spousal Support:

Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Affidavit
Affidavit of Income and Expenses
Affidavit of Health Insurance

F. Case Numbering. New Complaints should have the last two digits of the year and the docket code typed on by the attorney's office. The Clerk's Office will fill in the new case number. Also, the following are an example of how case numbers should be listed:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Civil | 14-CV-00115 |
| Criminal | 14-CR-00009 |
| Divorce | 14-DIV-00201 |
| Dissolution | 14-DIS-00077 |
| Domestic Relations | 14-DR-00600 |
| Certificate of Judgment | 14-CJ 13, PG 13 |
| Foreign Support | 14-FS-00039 |
| Court of Appeals | 14-CA-01 |

Where old case filings have no prefix numbers and letters, such should be added based on information from the file. Example: Case No. 53467 becomes 98-DIV-53467

G. Extension of time to answer or plead. Upon the filing of a written request for such extension, the Court routinely grants up to 14 days as an extension of time in which to answer, plead, or otherwise move, when no such prior extension has been granted. Every request shall state whether any prior extension(s) has been granted. If an additional extension beyond the initial period is requested, the party desiring an extension must attempt approval of any opposing counsel and show good cause.

RULE 3: SERVICE OF PROCESS

In addition to the provisions for service of process as found in the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure, or other statutes or Rules, the following Local Rules are adopted.

SERVICE BY PUBLICATION:

- A. Counsel for a party desiring service by publication in a civil matter pursuant to Civil Rule 4.4(A)(1) shall submit to the Clerk of Courts the proposed legal notice for such publication. Upon compliance with this Rule, the Clerk shall promptly publish the notice in a newspaper of general circulation.
- B. In any action when service is to be made by publication, the party seeking service by publication shall deposit with the Clerk of Courts, as security for the publication costs, the sum set forth in the Schedule of Fees periodically adopted by the Court (currently \$350). This deposit shall be in addition to any and all other deposits for costs required by these rules.
- C. In a divorce, annulment, or legal separation action, if the Plaintiff is proceeding *in forma pauperis*, and if the residence of the Defendant is unknown, service by publication shall be made by posting and mail as required by Civil Rule 4.4 (A)(2). Counsel for a party desiring this service shall submit to the Clerk of Court the proposed legal notice for such publication. This notice shall include notice of the time and place of final hearing. The Clerk shall promptly post the notice in a conspicuous place in the Courthouse of Darke County, Ohio and in two public areas of Darke County which might reasonably be believed to give notice of the proceedings as designated by Entry filed in the case based upon the request of the Plaintiff. This notice shall be posted in these required locations for six (6) consecutive weeks. Upon the completion of the six (6) weeks, the Clerk shall note on the docket when and where notice was posted, and service shall then be complete.

FAILURE OF SERVICE:

- D. If service is not completed within six (6) months as required by Civil Rule 4(E), the Court will serve notice on counsel that unless service is obtained within the specified time, the case will be dismissed.

SERVICE BY POSTING:

- E. Where service by posting and mailing is requested pursuant to Civil Rule 4.4(A)(2), sufficient affidavits and proof shall be filed to satisfy the Court that process under Civil Rule 4.4 should be permitted. When approved, service of notice shall be made by the Clerk of Courts by posting in the following places: (1) in the Clerk of Courts office of the courthouse; (2) in the lobby of the Post Office responsible for delivery of mail to the last known Darke County address of the Defendant; and (3) in the lobby of the Darke County Sheriff's Criminal Justice Center.

RULE 4: TRIAL ATTORNEY

- A. Notice of Appearance.** It shall be the duty of any attorney upon accepting representation of a party in any matter to notify the Court of such representation as soon as possible by the filing of a pleading, motion, Entry of Appearance, or other document.
- B. Designation and Qualification.** Unless otherwise ordered, in all actions filed in this Court, all parties not appearing *in propria persona* shall be represented of record by a trial attorney who is a member of the Bar of Ohio. Thereafter, until such designation is changed by Order of the Court, said trial attorney shall be responsible for the action.
- C. Signing of pleadings.** All pleadings filed on behalf of any party represented by counsel shall be signed by one (1) attorney in his/her individual name with the designation “Trial Attorney referred to in paragraph (B) of this rule, together with his/her typed name, his/her office address, zip code, telephone number, area code, attorney registration number and email address. Firm names and names of co-counsel or associate counsel may appear on the pleadings for information purposes.
- D. Notices.** All notices and communications from the Court with respect to an action will be sent to the trial attorney at their last address of record. Trial counsel shall be responsible for notifying his or her co-counsel or associate counsel of all matters affecting the action.
- E. Withdrawal of trial attorney.** A trial attorney shall be permitted to withdraw from an action only upon his request upon good cause shown with consent of the Court and upon such terms as the Court shall impose. The Court usually will not permit counsel to withdraw from any action at any time within twenty-one (21) days in advance of trial, final pretrial, or evidentiary hearing. At other times, the Court may permit counsel to withdraw only upon:
1. written application with the written consent of the party and the entry of appearance of a substitute counsel, or
a finding of good cause after hearing on a written application which contains a certificate of service of said application and a copy of this rule upon the represented party by counsel.
 2. If counsel shall become unable to represent a party or shall be permitted to withdraw from a case, that party shall have fourteen (14) days to secure new counsel. The Court may extend that time period upon application of the party and for good cause shown, or upon its own motion. If a party fails to procure counsel or fails to move the Court for an extension within said fourteen (14) days, the Court will assign the matter as in any other case, and the case shall proceed accordingly, or the Court may give notice of any other remedy. In such case, notices will be mailed directly to the party without counsel.

3. Any counsel who seeks to withdraw from a case shall advise the party to the action of this rule, shall furnish a written copy of this rule to the party, and shall certify compliance.

RULE 5: CASE MANAGEMENT

- A. Purpose.** The purpose of Rule 5 is to establish a system for civil, criminal, and domestic relations case management which will ensure the readiness of cases for trial and pretrial proceedings; to maintain and improve the timely and fair disposition of all cases; to provide the Court with an efficient means of controlling and monitoring the flow of cases; and to minimize the time required by members of the Bar, their clients and parties appearing pro se to resolve the disputes which bring the matters pending before this Court; and to comply with both the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Rules of Superintendence.
- B. Motion and memoranda.** Except as otherwise provided by these rules, counsel filing any motion shall also file a written memorandum containing a short, concise statement of the points relied upon and the authorities supporting each contention, with copies to opposing counsel. The Clerk shall not accept for filing any motion which is not accompanied by a memorandum in accordance with this rule.
- C. Attorney registration.** Counsel shall include their attorney registration number issued by the Supreme Court of Ohio on all documents filed with the Court, and the Court shall use said number as the exclusive number or code to identify counsel who file documents.
- D. Court's copy of pleadings.** Counsel shall provide a complete copy of all pleadings, motions, or other filings to the Clerk who shall file stamp and deliver same to the Court. These copies shall be marked on the front page as "Court's copy" or "Judge's copy."
- E. Citing unreported cases.** When citing an unreported case to the Court in any pleading, counsel or a party shall attach a complete copy of that case to the pleading.
- F. Responsive pleadings.** If any party fails to file a counter-memorandum or other response within ten (10) days after the receipt of any motion except summary judgment (unless another specific time has been established by the Court), the motion will be treated as having been submitted and the Court will rule upon the same. This rule shall not apply to a motion for temporary injunction, a motion to modify a decree, a motion for a new trial, unless otherwise ordered, or to any motion otherwise assigned for a hearing by the Court.
- G. Journalizing decisions.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, counsel for the party in whose favor a decree, judgment, or order is rendered, including orders and rulings pertaining to any part of a motion shall, within seven (7) days thereafter, prepare the proper journal entry and submit it to counsel for the adverse party for endorsement. If counsel for the prevailing party shall fail to do so, then counsel for the other party may prepare and submit such entry. Counsel to whom the entry is submitted shall approve or reject the same within seven (7) days after receipt thereof, and if counsel are unable to agree upon an entry, the judge making the decision or order shall direct what entry shall be made, or the Judge may prepare and file it himself.

H. Failure to journalize. The failure to timely submit an Entry to the Court as Ordered or as the parties may agree to resolve issues pending on the Court's docket will result in Notice being sent to the parties and/or counsel of record that the Court intends to dismiss the matter for lack of prosecution.

I. Discovery. The purpose of discovery is to assist counsel in discovering the merits of any claims, defenses or other pertinent issues involved in a pending matter. Discovery is not intended to be used to delay, confuse, or frustrate the litigation process. The process and regulation of discovery is intended to be left to the domain of the attorneys of record for parties in the case. Absent specific problems, the court will not generally become actively involved in the management of discovery. However, the court will regulate and participate in discovery when required by the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure, local rules and specific Court Order.

1. Objections to any discovery motion, application, interrogatories, or request under Rules 26 through 37 of the Civil Rules shall be filed within ten (10) days after service of the formal motion, application, interrogatories, or request, and shall be accompanied by a memorandum or brief.

2. The party initiating discovery to which objections are filed may file an answer, memorandum, or brief within ten (10) days after service of the objections. Upon the filing of such answer, memorandum, or brief, or at the end of the ten (10) day period, the matter will be automatically submitted.

3. Motions, applications and requests, to which objections are not reasonably filed, may be granted as a matter of course (as will orders directing answers to interrogatories) upon the informal presentation of an appropriate proposed and endorsed order by counsel for the party initiating discovery.

4. Requests for extensions of the prescribed periods must be in writing and state the grounds therefore and, in general, will be looked upon with disfavor.

J. Pretrial matters.

1. A pretrial conference may be held in civil, criminal and domestic relations cases as may from time to time be ordered by the Court. The purpose of a pretrial conference shall be to accomplish the objectives set forth in Civil Rule 26 and Criminal Rule 16, and counsel shall cooperate fully in such procedure.

2. The judge shall have authority to decide any undetermined preliminary matter; to record any admissions, stipulations, or agreements; to hear and determine the case; to make such findings, orders, judgments, or decrees as may be warranted and proper under the circumstances and within the scope and spirit of this rule, including the consideration of any pending motions; to set the case for trial or dismissal or to take other appropriate action if either or all of the parties and their respective counsel fail to appear at a duly assigned pretrial hearing.

3. Statements of the parties or their counsel made in the course of any pretrial hearing shall not be binding upon the parties unless expressly made so by written stipulation in the course of pretrial or upon other notice by the Court.
4. Following the filing of a case, counsel for all parties shall initiate and complete as much discovery as possible. Pretrial conferences will usually be scheduled by the Court within six (6) months after the filing of a civil case. Counsel for any party may request a pretrial conference as may be deemed necessary.

K. Assignment of Civil Cases.

1. Cases will be assigned by the Court for trial even if no request for trial assignment has been received. However, it shall be the duty of counsel for any party seeking affirmative relief to advise the Court when his claim is at issue and ready for trial. One of the objectives of a pretrial conference is to set an agreeable trial date. No continuance of any case set at pretrial will be granted unless requested in writing and for good cause shown. In the event the cause claimed is the absence of a material witness, an affidavit must be furnished as to the substance of what the witness would testify to if called. Absence of a material witness whom counsel has not deposed, subpoenaed, or otherwise arranged for immediately after pretrial shall not be good cause.
2. The firmness of assignment dates is imperative. Continuances generally will not be granted due to conflict of assignments unless written application is received within five (5) days after the notice of trial assignment provided requirements of the Civil Rules and Rules of Superintendence are met.
3. When a jury demand is made in civil cases, any party requesting a jury shall confirm the need to summon a jury at least seven (7) days prior to the start of trial. If a jury is not needed, the party requesting the jury shall pay the costs of summoning the jury and the cost of any jurors who appear. In criminal cases where the Defendant has the right to jury without request, counsel for the Defendant shall confirm the need to summon a jury at least seven (7) days prior to the start of trial. If a jury is not needed, the Defendant will be required to pay the costs of summoning the jury and the cost of any jurors who appear. Juror questionnaires may be provided to counsel according to the Court's discretion and shall be used solely for trial purposes and may not be provided to non-parties; after jury selection, the questionnaires shall be destroyed. Jury amenities are provided at the Court's discretion and the expense thereof may be taxed as costs.

L. Default Judgments.

1. All applications for default judgment which require a hearing under the Civil Rules will be assigned by entry submitted by counsel filing the application.
2. It is the duty of counsel to apply for default judgment or to move a party in default to plead; the failure to do so may be taken into consideration by the Court in determining whether or not there has been lack of prosecution.

3. When default may be granted against some of the parties, counsel shall obtain approval of the other answering defendants or their counsel before a judgment will be granted without a hearing. Submission of a proposed entry to other counsel will not be considered approval.

M. Dismissals.

1. The Court may dismiss, on its own motion, all cases in which:

(a) There has been no affirmative action taken for unreasonable time and the notice provided for in paragraph (b) has been given;

(b) There has been no response to inquiries from the Court regarding the status of the case;

(c) The Court has been advised that the parties in divorce, dissolution, or alimony cases have become reconciled since the case was filed;

(d) Any Rule of Superintendence has not been fulfilled.

2. If no affirmative action is taken which indicates that a case is proceeding toward resolution, any such case will be dismissed at least ten (10) days after the date of mailing notice to counsel and the parties, that the Court is considering dismissal of such case. Such dismissals shall be without prejudice, without record, and costs to be taxed as the Court deems just.

N. Pretrial briefs. Pretrial briefs should assist the trier of fact in better understanding legal and factual issues. Counsel shall submit such briefs on the legal issues as the Court may order prior to or at the time of the trial. In cases tried to the Court without a jury, counsel may supplement their briefs upon completion of the trial on such terms as the Court may direct.

O. Proceedings in Aid of Execution.

1. In connection with proceedings in aid of execution, unless a party objects, instead of sending a pay-master or other witness to testify, the defendant's employer may answer a questionnaire and send it by mail to the Clerk.

2. In connection with proceedings in aid of execution, unless a party objects, instead of sending an officer or employee or other witness to testify, a financial institution may answer a questionnaire concerning assets belonging to a person against whom execution is sought which are deposited in or held by said financial institution and send it by mail to the Clerk. Such reports are returnable to the Clerk on or before the seventh (7th) day following day after the proceeding was filed. Service shall be by regular mail unless otherwise requested.

P. Bankruptcy. When a bankruptcy proceeding is filed, the debtor's attorney or the debtor shall file a notice with the Court which shall include a copy of an appropriate pleading from the bankruptcy court providing *prima facie* proof of the filing. If the bankruptcy is expected to stay further sale proceedings, an Order to stay proceedings shall be submitted to the Court; merely filing a notice of bankruptcy does not automatically stop proceedings, including advertised Sheriff's sales.

Q. Receivership.

1. When an application is made for the appointment of a receiver, the hearing thereon shall be ordered by entry with notice to interested parties given thereon as ordered.

2. The receiver shall post bond as ordered by the Court and file an inventory not later than thirty (30) days from his appointment unless an extension is granted upon a motion filed for good cause shown. Unless otherwise ordered, the practice described by statute in the administration of decedents estates shall be followed as to notice and hearings on exceptions to the inventory and as to notice and hearing on accounts of receivers.

R. Trustee's Accounts.

1. Every trustee administering a trust in this Court shall render an account of the administration of his trust at least once every two (2) years, unless by Order of the Court, on its own motion, or by motion of any person interested in the trust, for good cause shown, such account be otherwise required.

2. Every such trustee shall render a final account within thirty (30) days after termination of such trust, or within such periods of time as the Court may order.

3. Such accounts shall be prepared, filed, assigned for hearing, notices published and exceptions taken in such manner as prescribed for decedent's estates.

4. If such trustee neglects or refuses to file an account when due or when ordered by the Court, the Court at its own insistence may, and on application of any interested party shall, issue a citation of such trustee to compel the filing of the overdue account. In the event the trustee fails to file such account within thirty (30) days after he has been served with such citation, no allowances shall be made for his services if the Court finds that such delay was unreasonable.

S. Agreed Settlements.

1. In cases where the parties have reached an agreed resolution of all or some issues, counsel shall agree upon who will prepare the pleading to journalize the agreement. Counsel for both parties should sign the agreement before submission to the Court.

2. It is suggested that counsel or parties make a record of the agreement between themselves if agreement is reached at the time of the hearing. This procedure will assist the Court and counsel if a dispute later arises. The Court will assist in providing equipment and personnel to make the record.

3. If, after the agreement, one party refuses to authorize their attorney to sign the agreement, the proposed agreement may be submitted to the Court for enforcement. However, prior to submission to the court, counsel for the signing party shall notify the other attorney that the entry will be submitted to the Court at least 3 days after the notice. The objecting attorney may submit an explanation to the Court of objections to the proposed agreement. The Court will then make such decision regarding signing the agreement as may be proper.

4. Counsel shall present agreements to the Court within 14 days after the Court is advised of the agreement or within 14 days after the date of the scheduled hearing, whichever is earlier. The failure to present agreements in a timely fashion as described herein may lead to dismissal of the pending complaint or motion, or such other sanctions as the Court may determine.

T. Nunc pro tunc entries. Where it is necessary to correct an entry previously filed, the corrections in the subsequent entry shall readily identify the area of correction (by such manners as underlying, bold text or capital lettering). The entry must indicate in the title that it is an entry "nunc pro tunc."

U. Court Reporter Issues. Rules and procedures involving the preparation of transcripts of Court proceedings, including the timing of preparation, delivery of completed transcripts and expenses for reporting services will be set forth by local orders as may periodically be filed with the Clerk of Courts. Counsel and parties may request the local orders by request to the Reporter.

V. Cognovit Judgments. In addition to other statutory requirements, prior to obtaining a cognovit judgment, the moving party must provide the original note to the Court. Upon the granting of a cognovit judgment, the Court shall note on the original note that a judgment was granted by the Court and the date of the judgment. The original note will be returned to the moving party.

W. Mediation and alternate dispute resolution. The Court does not have a mandatory mediation program or other regularly scheduled alternate dispute resolution services. The Court encourages these methods to assist parties in more promptly and less expensively resolving their disputes. The Court reserves the right to mandate mediation and other methods of alternate dispute resolution and to define the procedures to be followed to pursue these methods. Costs will be decided by the Court within its own discretion.

- X. Escheat.** In order to avoid the escheat of funds to the State of Ohio when no claim is made for funds on deposit with the Clerk of Courts, the Court reserves the right to direct such funds for local purposes which serve the public's need for representation, this conclusion being deemed necessary due to the diminished number of local attorneys and the need for pro bono legal services. Such conduct will occur only after reasonable attempts to locate persons with interest in such funds.
- Y. Attire.** All persons in the courtroom and adjacent facilities and appearing by virtual means, including parties, witnesses and spectators, shall appear with appropriate attire and cleanliness which recognize the significance of the judicial system and which is conducive to court proceedings. Such standards may admittedly be subjective and will ultimately be determined by the presiding judicial officer on a case-by-case basis. If such problems arise, the Court will attempt to provide a means to remedy the deficiency while reserving the right to exclude such person until the deficiency is corrected. Examples of inappropriate appearance / attire include the following characterizations: excessive dirt; offensive smells or body odors; excessive tears, tatters or holes; excessive exposure of skin and body parts; vulgar, crude, demeaning or offensive words, pictures, tattoos or diagrams.

RULE 6: FEES OF FIDUCIARIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS

In any matter pending in this Court in which a trustee, receiver, or other fiduciary has been appointed by this Court, and such fiduciary desires to secure from the Court an allowance of compensation for his services and/or for attorney's fees for services rendered, such fiduciary shall:

1. File in this Court a written application for such allowance, which application shall contain notice of the time and date for the hearing, which shall not be less than seven (7) days from the filing of the application. A copy of the application and notice shall be served upon other parties and counsel in the manner provided for by the Ohio Rules of Procedure.
2. Upon the filing of the application and copies, the applicant shall forthwith mail one copy to each counsel of record in the case, except where several parties are represented by the same counsel, it shall be sufficient compliance herewith to mail one (1) copy to such counsel.
3. At or after the time and date of the hearing on the adjudication, the Court shall make such order and judgment as it may deem proper.
4. The provisions of this rule shall not apply to applications for compensation where the amount requested is less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100); nor shall the rule be applicable to actions wherein such fees or compensations are fixed in journal entries which are approved by counsel of all other parties in the case.

RULE 7: PRACTICE IN DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES

- A. Personal History.** In each and every case in which the relief demanded includes a divorce, dissolution, legal separation, or spousal support, there shall be presented by the Plaintiff with the Complaint a Questionnaire on a yellow colored form which may be obtained from the Clerk, containing a personal history of the parties of the action. The Defendant may present a similar Questionnaire at the time of filing an Answer or Cross-Complaint. The Clerk shall not accept for filing any Complaint in a divorce, dissolution, or legal separation action unless the Questionnaire is presented. Each party requesting child support or spousal support shall file a completed Affidavit of Income and Expenses. The information contained in said Affidavit shall be treated in the hearing and considered in the cause of action as though it were obtained in answer to questions propounded by the Court to the party filing such statement and shall be the subject of cross-examination.
- B. Confidentiality of Identifying Information.** Consistent with Superintendence Rule 45, no complete social security number or date of birth for any party shall be included on pleadings filed with the Clerk of Courts. Where such information appears necessary to clarify persons or parties, it is suggested the following information may be included: (1) first five digits of the social security number; and/or (2) month and year of birth.

To assist with accurate identification of a party or person, when any domestic relations case is filed or any motion to invoke the Court's continuing jurisdiction is filed, the party or their counsel shall provide the Court (but not publicly file) on a separate pleading the full name, complete social security number, complete date of birth, and maiden name (if applicable). This information shall be maintained by the Court in a confidential file which shall be available only to Court personnel, personnel from the Department of Jobs and Family Services (for support collection purposes) and others upon Court approval for good cause shown.

C. Temporary Orders.

- 1.** Counsel are directed to the provisions of Civil Rule 75(I) and 75(M) with regard to general provisions for Temporary Orders. Granting *ex parte* temporary orders can serve the interests of the parties; orders will be considered on a case by case basis depending on the facts presented. Generally, orders should maintain the status quo as opposed to causing significant changes in circumstances.
- 3.** Excepting requests to mutually restrain the disposal of assets, requests for *ex parte* orders should not be made when the parties have both retained counsel who have been attempting to resolve marital conflict or conclude marital issues. If both parties have counsel, a movant shall notify the other counsel of their belief in the need for temporary Orders and contact the Court for a time to discuss the matter. Otherwise, pleadings alone are usually sufficient for the Court to determine appropriate Orders

although counsel may be required to appear to explain case circumstances or otherwise justify the motions.

3. Motions seeking *ex parte* Orders defining residential placement of minor children, payment of support and medical expenses for children, visitation and similar children-related issues may be granted at the discretion of the Court; such Orders are generally disfavored and usually best if maintaining the status quo. Parties seeking this relief shall file supporting affidavits providing detailed information which would support the motion, including statements regarding the past and current caretakers of the child(ren). Vague and broadly written affidavits are discouraged as not likely to assist the Court in making a decision.

4. Motions seeking *ex parte* Orders for spousal support by cash or in-kind payment will generally be set for hearing or deadline for written response with notice to the opposing party, permitting reply within the time permitted by the notice (generally 10 to 14 days after filing the notice). But see paragraph (a) above.

5. Motions for the exclusive occupancy of a motor vehicle or residence will be sparingly granted without a hearing or deadline for written response and usually under such circumstances where the movant shows there will be little inconvenience to the other party, such as the parties having multiple motor vehicles or one party having already vacated the residence for some reasonable period of time.

6. If any party feels aggrieved by a temporary order, such party may file a motion to modify the order as outlined in Civil Rule 75.

D. Attorney fees. Requests for attorney fees will be considered on a case-by-case basis and granted only where justified by the circumstances of the case at the Court's discretion.

E. Investigations / Guardians ad Litem. The following Local Rules supplement Rule 48 of the Ohio Rules of Superintendence.

1. The appointment of a Guardian ad Litem or Investigator may be ordered in any action for divorce, annulment, spousal support, or a motion for a change of custody of minor children where the question of residential placement or parenting time is in dispute. The parties may request the appointment or the court may do so on its own motion. The parties are encouraged to select a mutually agreeable Guardian ad Litem, when possible.

2. The report of the Guardian ad Litem shall be submitted to the Court at least seven (7) days in advance of hearing, unless another date is permitted by the Court on a case by case basis. Submission to the Court shall be deemed as "filing" the report as required by Supt. Rule 48(F)(2). Submission may be by electronic means, and may be stored in electronic format, provided retrieval on paper can occur therefrom. Copies shall be provided by the Guardian ad Litem to counsel of record but any further distribution in verbatim format (paper, electronically, etc.) is prohibited. Distribution of the report to any party pro se will be under circumstances designed to limit further distribution. Payment for the costs of the investigator may be agreed by the parties. In the absence of an agreement, the moving party shall make a deposit

with the Clerk of Court of sufficient funds (as set by the Court) to pay for the report (unless the court orders otherwise). The Court retains jurisdiction over allocation of the costs of the report.

3. If a party twice fails to appear or make satisfactory arrangements for an interview, or to otherwise cooperate, the Complaint, counter-complaint or appropriate motion may be dismissed by the Court for lack of prosecution. Further, the Court reserves the right to otherwise consider the lack of cooperation with the interview.
4. Access to the report of the Guardian ad Litem shall be provided to the counsel for the parties where such counsel exists of record. Phone access is limited to whether the report has been filed. Contents of the report will not be orally provided by phone access. Any *ex parte* communications between counsel and any Investigator or Guardian ad Litem are prohibited until after the report has been issued. This prohibition does not apply to providing necessary information or records requested by the investigator or Guardian ad Litem.
5. Criteria for the appointment of Guardians ad Litem will be established by the Court, and as modified from time to time. To the extent permitted by law, documents submitted to qualify as a Guardian ad Litem shall be submitted by the applicant and will be maintained as non-public records of the Court to protect privacy of the applicant. The duty of the Court to consider distribution of work load when appointing a Guardian ad Litem will be given minimal weight.
6. In order to avoid improprieties and to not interfere with the adjudicatory process, any written comments and criticism of the Guardian ad Litem may be submitted to the presiding judge of the Court at such time as the matter concerning the Guardian's involvement is finally determined and all appeal times have expired. In order to be considered, comments and criticism shall be signed by the submitting party. Any action by the Court will seek to protect the confidentiality of the submitting party, and any disclosure will be at the Court's discretion. This rule does not prevent examination of the Guardian ad Litem during trial and pretrial proceedings, subject to applicable rules of evidence and procedure.
7. The Court has developed an internal policy regarding other, non-substantive aspects needed to implement Supt. Rule 48.

F. Parenting Time provisions.

1. The difficulties between spouses who become litigants in domestic relations cases frequently cause problems for the minor child(ren). Children often become embroiled in the conflict instead of being left out of the litigation. It is the Court's policy to encourage parties to maintain appropriate, respectful, and loving relationships between child(ren) and their parents. While the parties may no longer be spouses, they both remain parents of any child(ren) and need to be involved in parenting responsibilities for the child(ren).

2. Parenting time between parents and children is to be encouraged by parties, attorneys, and other interested persons. Because agreements cannot always be reached regarding suitable time, the Court has developed a Standard Schedule for Parenting Time. [See attachments following these Rules.] In the absence of specific agreements between parties regarding parenting time on a case by case basis, then parenting time orders shall make reference to the Standard Schedule. A copy of the Standard Schedule is attached hereto and incorporated. The Standard Schedule may be modified from time to time by the Court to meet changing needs.

3. For children under one year of age, or in cases where one parent has not been in regular contact with the child(ren), the parties are encouraged to agree to a modified parenting time plan that allows time to develop a relationship and to integrate the child(ren) into the family of the other parent. In the absence of an agreement, the parties shall follow the Phase-In Schedule adopted by this Court [See attachments following these Rules.]

G. Seminar for Parents. In every case where minor children are involved, the parties shall complete one of various Helping Children Succeed After Divorce seminars approved by the Court. Each party shall pay the appropriate fee unless, upon Court Order for good cause shown, the fee is waived. If parties are before the Court on matters of continuing jurisdiction and have not previously attended the parenting class, the parties shall attend the class unless excused therefrom for good cause shown. Substitution of similar classes for ones previously approved by the Court may be permitted upon proof of the content of the proposed program and for good cause shown. [See attachment following these Rules.]

H. Post-Decree Modification. When pleadings are filed to invoke the Court's jurisdiction on post-decree issues, the initial pleading filed by any party shall contain therein the current address of all parties and an updated Application for Child Support Services (IV-D application). Upon specific application and for good cause shown, the Court reserves the right to waive the requirement to disclose a current address.

I. Miscellaneous. Before agreements regarding custody, parenting time, and support can be approved, the parties must not only agree as to the amount of support but also on parenting time, payments of ordinary and extraordinary medical, dental, optical, and orthodontic expenses, and provisions for medical insurance which benefits such children.

J. Mutuality of Restraining Orders. All parties to original divorce and legal separation actions in the Darke County Court of Common Pleas shall be subject to the following temporary restraining orders. The Plaintiff shall be restrained as of the date an action is filed, and the Defendant(s) shall be restrained as of the date of service. The parties to this order shall comply with the temporary restraining orders under penalty of contempt of court.

The attorney representing the Plaintiff in any divorce or legal separation action filed in this court shall furnish a copy of the restraining order to the Plaintiff, and as of signing the complaint, the Plaintiff shall be bound by the terms of this order. The Plaintiff's pleadings shall indicate proof of receipt of the temporary restraining order or acknowledgment of its existence.

The attorney representing the Plaintiff shall prepare and file an order with the initial pleadings in conformity with this Rule so that the document is served simultaneously with initial pleadings. If there is no attorney for the Plaintiff, a comparable legal duty shall apply to a self-represented Plaintiff.

The terms of the mutual restraining orders to be included in the pleadings are as follows:

1. Each party is hereby enjoined and restrained from causing or permitting minor children of the parties to be relocated from Darke County or from their current address except by signed written agreement of the parties or authorization by this court.
2. Each party is hereby enjoined and restrained from doing, attempting to do or threatening to do any act of injuring, maltreating, vilifying, molesting or harassing the adverse party or any children of the parties.
3. Each party is hereby enjoined and restrained from selling, encumbering, contracting to sell, removing from the jurisdiction of this court, or otherwise disposing of any of the property belonging to either of the parties, except in the ordinary course of business or unless authorized in writing by this court.
4. Both parties are restrained from entering safety deposit boxes until further order of the court.
5. Each party is hereby restrained from changing the beneficiaries on or cancelling any health insurance, life insurance, automobile insurance, retirement or investment accounts.

RULE 8: HEARINGS BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE

- A.** Having previously established the position of Magistrate and having filed orders of reference, the Court may refer any matters coming before the Court to be heard by the Magistrate instead of the Court, according to the provisions of Civil Rule 53 and Criminal Rule 19. The following Local Rules are a supplement to the provisions of Civil Rule 53 and Criminal Rule 19.
- B.** If all parties and counsel of record consent, a jury trial may be referred to the Magistrate for trial purposes.
- C.** Upon the Magistrate hearing a non-jury matter, if all parties have entered an agreement on a particular issue or on all issues, the parties may sign a waiver of a decision by the Magistrate and consent to the immediate presentment of the Order to the Court for consideration without the 14 day time for objection required by Civil Rule D(3)(a) or Criminal Rule 19(E)(2)(a).
- D.** In cases where one or both parties objects to the Magistrate's Decision, a memorandum consisting of the reasons for the objections must be filed within fourteen (14) days after the filing of such decision. If no objections are filed within the appropriate time, the Magistrate's Decision may be adopted as the Order of the Court.
- E.** A copy of any objections to the Magistrate's Decision must be given to the Common Pleas Court by the attorney representing the objecting party.
- F.** When a hearing before the Magistrate requires the testimony or interviewing of any children, a time will be set aside for the same. Parties and counsel are encouraged to set a time which minimizes interference with school and/or scheduled activities. Generally, children should not be brought to the hearing, unless circumstances exist which require it. The Magistrate has broad discretion regarding the circumstances that require children to attend the hearing.

RULE 9: CRIMINAL MATTERS

A. Pre-trials, Hearing and Entries.

1. An initial status conference shall be assigned at the time of the arraignment, following indictment by the Grand Jury, for the purpose of establishing time periods for discovery and for motion hearings, pretrials, and trials.
2. To make pretrial conferences as productive as possible, discovery by both sides shall be substantially completed by the time of the pretrial conference. The following shall be the Court's standard discovery order on criminal cases:
 - (a) If discovery is desired, the Defendant shall file his request for discovery within 7 days after the date of arraignment if the Defendant intends to do so. The State of Ohio shall comply with the Defendant's discovery request within 21 days thereafter. The Defendant shall then provide discovery to the State of Ohio within 14 days thereafter. These deadlines shall not limit either party from filing Motions under Criminal Rule 12(E) nor shall this Order limit the continuing duty of the parties to supplement its responses.
 - (b) Motions pursuant to Criminal Rule 12 shall be filed within 42 days after the date of the arraignment, or 7 days before trial, whichever is earlier.
 - (c) Counsel for the Defendant shall confirm with the Court that a jury is needed seven (7) days in advance of trial. If a jury is not needed but the Court is not timely notified, the Defendant or his counsel shall pay the cost of summoning the jury and any other related costs.
 - (d) Within 10 days prior to any trial, counsel shall file a list of witnesses which they intend to call and the list of exhibits which they intend to introduce.
3. Counsel are requested to meet prior to scheduled proceedings to resolve issues whenever possible.
4. Defense counsel shall have the Defendant present for all proceedings unless excused by the Court. If the Defendant is incarcerated out of the county and has not been excused from attendance, defense counsel shall file a motion at least one (1) week prior to that proceeding requesting the Defendant's conveyance.
5. A representative of the investigating law enforcement agency is requested to be present for all contested proceedings, regardless of their need to testify.

6. If counsel is requested to prepare an entry, counsel shall submit it to the Court within seven (7) business days after the request unless otherwise Ordered.

B. Post-Conviction Motions. Upon the filing of any post-conviction motion, only upon Order of the Court will the matter be scheduled for hearing. Unless otherwise Ordered, scheduling will usually be held within sixty (60) days after any motion is filed.

C. Counsel for Indigent Defendants.

1. By agreement with the Darke County Bar Association, the Court shall appoint attorneys to represent indigent Defendants, pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code and the agreement entered with the Darke County Public Defender's Commission..

2. When an attorney has been appointed to represent an indigent Defendant, the Common Pleas Court staff shall notify the attorney of the appointment and the time and date of the next Court appearance of the Defendant. The attorney shall make every effort to interview the Defendant, explain the nature of the charge(s) and the penalties involved, and outline the statutory and constitutional rights of the Defendant prior to the next scheduled Court appearance of the Defendant.

3. Normally, one attorney will be appointed to represent the Defendant. However, when the case involves a charge of murder or aggravated murder or where the case appears to otherwise require additional counsel, including the opportunity to education younger counsel, the Court may appoint additional counsel to represent the Defendant.

4. When attorneys are not appointed pursuant to the agreement with the Public Defender's Commission, as determined by the Court when considering caseload and other factors, other counsel shall be appointed by the Court. A reasonable attorney fee plus reimbursement for reasonable expenses, both as set by the Court, shall be allowed to the appointed attorney upon application filed by the attorney with the Court. The application for attorney fees and expenses must conform with requirements promulgated by the Ohio Public Defender's Office. In order to obtain reimbursement from the Ohio Public Defender's Office, applications for fees and expenses should be filed with the Court within 60 days after the date of the last service for the Defendant. Applications filed out of time will be considered for payment, possibly at the end of the fiscal year, and possibly for compensation at a lower rate.

D. Experts and Investigators. Upon motion and for good cause shown, whether filed publicly or in camera, appointed counsel for an indigent defendant may request that the court authorize expenses for expert witnesses and investigators. Counsel should be prepared to define the need for the expert and/or investigator and to estimate the amount of fees and expenses necessary for the expert and/or investigator.

- E. Restitution.** When applicable and upon Court Order, a person convicted of a criminal offense may be required to pay restitution, including court costs, attorney fees and damages suffered by a victim (s) of a crime. Disbursement of payments received for restitution will typically be made by the Adult Probation Department pursuant to written policies periodically developed by the Court or as may be ordered on a case by case basis.
- F. Open File Discovery.** In cases where the Prosecuting Attorney elects to provide a complete copy of the file to counsel for the defense, this "open file discovery" will be treated as fully satisfying the State's obligations under Criminal Rule 16(B), except as may be ordered by the court upon subsequent motion and showing of a particularized need. Counsel for the defense may not use witness statements provided by the State unless Criminal Rule 16(B)(1)(g) is satisfied.

RULE 10: MEDIA MATTERS

Broadcasting, televising, recording, and photographing by news media during courtroom sessions, including recesses between sessions, generally will be permitted but according to the discretion of the Judge and under the following conditions:

- A. Written Requests.** Requests for permission to broadcast, televise, record, or photograph in the courtroom shall be in writing to the Court's Administrative Assistant as far as in advance as reasonably practical, but in no event later than 1 hour prior to the courtroom session to be broadcast or photographed unless otherwise permitted by the Trial Judge.
- B. Light and Sound Criteria.** Only professional quality telephonic, photographic, and audio equipment which does not produce distracting sound or light shall be employed to cover courtroom sessions.
- C. Professionalism.** Equipment and media personnel shall operate in a manner that does not demean the proceedings or distract from the conduct of the courtroom. Television cameras, microphones, and taping equipment shall not be placed in, moved during, or removed from the courtroom except prior to commencement or after adjournment of the session or during a recess. Changing television-tape magazines, rolls, lenses, film, nor audio tape cassettes shall be done in a quiet and orderly manner so to avoid distraction. Media representatives are encouraged to be properly attired and act in a manner that reflects positively upon the journalistic profession.
- D. Restrictions.** There shall be no audio pickup or broadcast of conferences conducted in a courtroom between counsel and clients, co-counsel, or the Trial Judge and counsel. It is prohibited to photograph or televise by any means victims of sexual assaults, undercover police officers and jurors. The Trial Judge retains discretion to limit or prohibit photographing or televising of any other victim, witness, or counsel or his or her work product.
- E. Revocation of Permission.** Upon the failure of any media representative to comply with the conditions prescribed by the Trial Judge, the Rules of Superintendence of the Supreme Court, or this rule, the Trial Judge may revoke the permission to broadcast, photograph, or record the trial or hearing.
- F. Live-Streaming by the Court.** The Court has implemented live-streaming of its sessions in order to increase access to the processes and proceedings of the Court. Viewing is available on YouTube Live at “darke county common pleas court room.” In addition to the above provisions of Local Rule 10, the following specific Rules shall apply:

1. **Court Discretion.** The Court reserves the right to determine which proceedings, in whole or in part, will be streamed. The Court's decision to conduct live-streaming does not vest any right in any person or entity to demand or compel that the Court provide such service. In the same manner as the Court makes decisions regarding actual in person attendance within the court room, the Court reserves the right to make decisions regarding the scope of live-streaming.
2. **Dissemination.** The live streaming feed is intended for viewing only. Without express permission of the Court, no person or entity is authorized to record, disseminate or otherwise use the audio or video portion of the proceeding. Requests for permission shall be submitted in writing to the Court.
3. **Restraint.** In the event that parties or witnesses wish the Court to not live-stream all or part of any proceeding, a written or oral request shall be made to the Court which articulates the reason(s) for such restraint. A similar request may be made to the Court to remove availability of the recorded content after a proceeding is concluded.
4. **Consequences.** As with all other Rules, the Court acknowledges its inherent authority to enforce its Rules through contempt authority, with penalties that include incarceration and monetary fines.

RULE 11: JUDICIAL SALES OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

- A.** On all sales of goods and chattels, the purchase price shall be paid in cash at the time of the sale, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Where the sale is not conducted by the Sheriff, on application and for good cause, the Court may authorize extra advertising and the employment of an auctioneer. Unless the Court otherwise orders, the commission on sales shall be determined by the Court in advance of the sale on a case by case basis.
- B.** On all Sheriff sales of real estate where the sale price is One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) or less, the Sheriff shall require payment from the purchaser of the full amount of his bid as soon as the bid is accepted. Where the amount of the bid is more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) and is made by a person other than the proponent of the sale or first lienholder, the Sheriff shall require a deposit of fifteen percent (15%) of the sale price. Where the amount of the bid is more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) and is made by the proponent of the sale or the first lienholder, the Sheriff shall require a deposit of either (1) four percent (4%) of the appraised value of the property, or (2) \$500.00, whichever is greater. Payments under this rule shall be in the form of cash or a check payable to the Sheriff. The deposit required herein is first to be applied to the conveyance fee, transfer taxes, recording costs, a \$75.00 Sheriff's fee for filing / recording services, Sheriff's fees under R.C. 311.17, and other administrative expenses. The balance of the deposit, if any, shall be applied to distributions pursuant to the confirmation entry. If the Sheriff determines that the costs of transferring and recording the deed will exceed the deposit, he may seek such additional deposit to cover such expenses.
- C.** When the relief sought includes a request for an Order of Sale involving real estate, the proponent of the Order shall attach a complete real estate description for the real property to be sold, along with the permanent parcel identification number, any known street address and the volume and page reference for the most recently recorded deed. The complete real estate description shall contain the approval of the Darke County Engineer regarding the accuracy of the description for purposes of subsequent conveyance. The proof of a title examination, judicial report or other evidence of title required by R.C. 2329.191 may also be issued by an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Ohio (i.e. not exclusively issued by a title insurance company). Such proof shall cover a period of 21 years prior to the date of the report, or the actual length of the current owner's title, whichever is longer. An additional cost deposit toward publication costs of \$200.00 shall be paid by the proponent of the Order of Sale at the time of the filing of the Order of Sale.

- D.** Within 30 days after the date of sale, counsel for the party causing the sale shall provide a confirmation entry to the Court. Within 30 days after the filing of the confirmation entry, the purchaser shall pay the balance of the purchase price, if any. If the sale is conducted by the Sheriff, after being recorded by the Sheriff, the deed will be mailed to the purchaser. All court costs shall be fully paid within 15 days after the purchaser pays the balance of the purchase price or within 45 days after the date of filing the confirmation entry if the highest bid is made by the proponent of the sale or the first lienholder.
- E.** Counsel for the proponent of the sale shall submit the deed and conveyance form required by R.C. 2329.36. A copy of the legal description with proof of the Engineer's approval shall accompany the deed. No particular form of deed is required, but acceptability of the proposed deed is left to the discretion of the Sheriff. If the deed is not timely submitted, the Sheriff or proponent may prepare the deed and charge \$75.00 for such preparation.
- F.** In the event that the highest bidder does not pay the balance of the purchase price within 30 days after the sale, the Court may declare the deposit to be forfeited, provided the highest bidder receives written notice of the intent to declare the deposit forfeited and is given five days after the mailing of the notice to pay the balance due. Forfeited funds shall be applied to additional costs of resale, with any balance to inure to the benefit of the county, or be disbursed as directed by the Court.
- G.** When publication is necessary for service of process, or for advertising the sale of real estate, pursuant to R.C. 2703.141 and R.C. 5721.18, efforts should be undertaken to minimize costs. Counsel is expected to contact local general circulation newspapers approved for publication to ascertain the least expensive alternative; if the least expensive alternative is not selected, unless good cause is shown, the Court reserves the right to assess the higher cost of publication against the proponent of the publication and not assess the higher cost to the opposing party. Abbreviated real estate descriptions should be used where permitted by law, including the use of permanent parcel identification numbers, street addresses / descriptions and deed references.
- H.** The requirements of R.C. 2329.271 shall be deemed satisfied by completion and filing the form customarily used by the Darke County Sheriff.
- I.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, a deposit of at least One Hundred Dollars (\$100) may be required by the Sheriff before any goods and chattels are seized and sold on execution. On application of the Sheriff, after notice to the party affected and for good cause shown, the amount of the deposit may be increased by the Court to ensure that sufficient funds are available to pay the cost, storage, insurance, advertising, etc.
- J.** In the circumstance where entrance into a building or improvement on the real estate is requested (such as an open house, the need to preserve the premises from damage, re-appraisals, etc.), a written request must be made to the Court providing detailed

reasons to justify the request. The Court may make such Orders for entrance as it determines to be fair and reasonable. The costs and payment for entrance, securing the property, etc. are also subject to the Court's discretion.

- K.** Where real estate does not sell at public auction, any party or the Court on its own motion may request a re-appraisal of the real estate. If the Sheriff's appraisal does not change from the first appraisal, or if there is lack of marketability or other justification, the Court may reduce the two-thirds minimum amount or otherwise modify the customary terms of sale and payment.
- L.** When a bankruptcy proceeding is filed, the debtor's attorney or the debtor shall file a notice with the Court which shall include a copy of an appropriate pleading from the bankruptcy court providing *prima facie* proof of the filing. If the bankruptcy is expected to stay further sale proceedings, an Order to withdraw the sale shall be submitted to the Court; merely filing a notice of bankruptcy does not automatically stop a sale.
- M.** The above provisions are drafted as if a sale is conducted by the Sheriff, which is the most common judicial sale. If judicial sales conducted by third-parties are authorized by the Court, such as Receiver and Commissioner sales, similar procedures are suggested though such third party sale will have individual terms, conditions and rules as the Court may establish on a case by case basis.

LOCAL RULE 12: ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF PLEADINGS FOR FILING
(renumbered January, 2022)

As an alternative to delivery by U.S. Postal Service, for-profit carriers and/or personal delivery, pleadings and other papers may be delivered to the Clerk of Courts for filing by electronic (facsimile or email) transmission to **937-547-7305** or **edelivery.darkeclerk@co.darke.oh.us**, subject to the following requirements:

A. APPLICABILITY:

1. These rules apply to pleadings and other papers in civil, criminal, and domestic relations proceedings in the Darke County Common Pleas Court, Civil, Criminal and Domestic Relations Divisions, except as specified in the following paragraph.
2. These rules do not apply to the following pleadings:
 - a. any pleading requiring a court cost deposit where none has already been made with the clerk, such as civil complaint, counter-claim, cross-claim, third-party complaint, domestic relations motions to re-open case, etc. Also, any pleading which commences a new action or matter where no deposit is required.
 - b. cognovit promissory notes and other documents where any part of the original document is to be returned to the proffering party
 - c. original depositions
 - d. criminal complaint and attachments; indictments

B. ORIGINAL FILING:

1. A document delivered by electronic transmission shall be accepted as the effective original filing. The Clerk of Court receiving the electronic transmission will maintain its equipment to reconstruct a paper copy version of the source document to serve as the original document in the case file.
2. Unless otherwise directed by the Court, the person causing an electronic delivery need not file any source document with the Clerk of Court but must, however, maintain in his or her records and have available for production on request by the Court the source document delivered by electronic method, with original signatures as otherwise required under the applicable rules, together with the source copy of the cover page used for delivering the subject document.
3. The source document delivered by electronic method shall be maintained by the person making the delivery until the case is closed and all opportunities for post judgment relief are exhausted.

C. DEFINITIONS:

As used in these rules, unless the context requires otherwise:

1. “Electronic delivery” means the transmission of a source document by a computer, facsimile machine or other electronic equipment, that encodes a document into optical or electrical signals, transmits and reconstructs the signals to print a duplicate of the source document to the telephone number or email address of the Clerk of Courts at the receiving end.

D. COVER PAGE:

1. The person delivering a document by electronic methods shall also provide therewith a cover page containing the following information: [See attached sample cover page.]
 - a. sender’s name and firm identification;
 - b. sender’s telephone number;
 - c. the transmitting fax/email number;
 - d. the caption of the case;
 - e. the case number;
 - f. the title of the document being filed (e.g. Defendant Jones’ Answer to Amended Complaint; Plaintiff Smith’s Response to Motion to Dismiss; Plaintiff Smith’s Notice of Filing Exhibit G, etc.);
 - g. the date of transmission;
 - h. the number of pages included in the transmission, including the cover page;
2. If a document is delivered by electronic method to the Clerk of Court without the cover page information listed above, or if the document does not otherwise comply with any provisions of the Local Rules, the Clerk may, at its discretion:
 - a. enter the document in the Case Docket and file the document; or
 - b. deposit the document in a file of failed electronic documents with a notation of the reason for the failure; in this instance, the document shall not be considered filed with the Clerk of Courts.
3. As with current methods of paper delivery, the Clerk of Court is not legally required to send any form of notice to the sending party of a failed electronic delivery. Parties are expected to check on the efficacy of electronic delivery. The Clerk of Court shall endeavor to inform the sending party only of a failed filing. See www.darke.courts.com.

4. Once an electronically delivered document is accepted by the Clerk and filed on the Case Docket, the Clerk of Courts shall send a notice (eg. bottom of the cover page) to the sending party by the same electronic method as received (eg. fax or email) that the document was accepted and filed. The Clerk of Courts shall not be responsible for return of the filed document; instead, the sending party may retrieve the document by searching the docket and retrieving the document (eg. download the document to your desk top).
5. The sending party shall comply with Ohio Rule of Civil Procedure 5 regarding notice to other parties / counsel.

E. SIGNATURE:

1. A party delivering a signed source document by electronic method shall either:
 - a. transmit a copy of the signed source document; or
 - b. transmit a copy of the document without the signature but with the notation "/s/" followed by the name of the signing person where the signature appears in the signed source document (eg. /s/ Jane Doe). Submission of this notation carries the imprimatur and obligations of Ohio Rule of Civil Procedure 11.
2. A party who delivers a signed document by electronic method represents that the physically signed source document is in his/her possession or control and that he/she will comply with this Rule.

F. EXHIBITS:

1. Each exhibit to an electronically produced document that cannot be accurately delivered via electronic transmission for any reason must be replaced by an insert page describing the exhibit and why it is missing. Unless the Court otherwise orders, the missing exhibit shall be filed with the Court, as a separate document, not later than five (5) court days following the filing of the electronically delivered document. Failure to file the missing exhibits as required by this paragraph may result in the Court striking the document and/or exhibit.
2. Any exhibit filed in this manner shall be attached to a cover sheet containing the information required by Section D.1. above, and shall be signed and served in conformance with the rules governing the signing and service of pleadings in this court. [See appendix for sample cover sheet.]

G. TIME OF FILING:

1. Subject to the provisions of these rules, all documents delivered by electronic method and accepted by the Clerk shall be considered filed with the Clerk of Courts

as of the date and time the Clerk time-stamps the document received, as opposed to the date and time of the electronic delivery. The office of the Clerk of Court will be deemed open to receive electronic delivery of documents on the same days and at the same time the court is regularly open for business.

2. Electronically delivered documents may NOT be sent directly to the Court for filing but may only be transmitted directly to the Clerk of Court.
3. As with delivery by U.S. Postal Service, for-profit carriers and personal delivery, the risks of delivering a document by electronic method to the Clerk of Court shall be borne entirely by the sending party. Anyone using electronic method of delivery for filing is urged to verify receipt of such filing by the Clerk of Court through whatever means are available. [See Section D.3. above.] See www.darkecourts.com.

H. FEES AND COSTS:

1. No document delivered by electronic methods that requires a court cost deposit shall be accepted by the Clerk for filing. Documents tendered to the Clerk without payment of court cost and fees, or which do not conform to applicable rules, may not be filed. [See Section A.2. above.]
2. No additional fee shall be assessed for electronic delivery and filing of pleadings. However, customary charges for the printing and /or copying of any documents which must be distributed by the Clerk of Court shall still be charged (eg. Final Appealable Orders, pleadings directed by the Court to be sent by the Clerk, etc.

I. LENGTH OF DOCUMENT:

1. Electronically delivered filings shall not exceed 30 pages in length for each document. If multiple documents with extensive page size are to be electronically delivered, it is recommended that each document be submitted individually. The filer shall not transmit service copies by electronic methods. [See Section D.4 above.]

J. EFFECTIVE DATE:

1. Local Rule 13 shall be effective March 1, 2021, and shall govern all proceedings and actions brought after they take effect and also govern further proceedings in pending actions, except to the extent that, in the opinion of the Court, their application in a particular action pending on the effective date would not be feasible or would work an injustice, in which event, the former procedure applies.

2. The prior Local Rule dated July 21, 2004 and Local Rule 2.B. which prohibit facsimile filing are revoked. For copies transmitted by electronic delivery, the Clerk shall fulfill the obligations of Local Rule 5.D. by providing the copy to the Court after filing.

[h/judge/rules/rules-electronic delivery 2021](#)

DARKE COUNTY CLERK OF COURT
Cover Page for Electronic Delivery
(Common Pleas Court Local Rule 13)

SENDER INFORMATION:

Sender's Name: _____

Office / Firm Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number / Email Address: _____

CASE INFORMATION:

Caption of Case: _____

Case Number: _____

Title of Document: _____

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Date of Sending to the Clerk: _____

Number of Pages (including cover page - maximum 30): _____

Notice of Failed Filing

The Darke County Clerk of Court acknowledges receipt of the electronically delivered document(s) described above and provides notice that such document(s) was /were NOT filed. This confirmation is returned to the same electronic address as used for delivery to the Clerk.

Clerk / Deputy Clerk / Court Official

cc: Cover page with pleading delivered to Common Pleas Court on date filed

**End of Local Rules
Page 40 of 40**

Forms on following 12 pages

INTERNET RESOURCES: Numerous domestic relations pleadings can be found on the website of the Ohio Supreme Court at www.supremecourtohio.gov. The availability of these forms and their filing in the Court of Common Pleas does not constitute an endorsement of their propriety and is not a substitute for compliance with either State or Local Rules.

Court website: www.darkecommonpleascourt.com

Clerk website: www.darkecourts.com

Clerk electronic delivery: edelivery.darkeclerk@co.darke.oh.us

**THE COURT RESERVES THE RIGHT WITHIN ITS SOUND DISCRETION
TO ENFORCE ALL LOCAL RULES AND OTHERWISE USE AND MANAGE
THEM TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.**

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF DARKE COUNTY, OHIO

Plaintiff / 1st Petitioner
SS# ____ - ____ -XXXX
dob (mo/yr) ____ / ____

Case No. _____

CSEA No. _____

vs / and

Defendant / 2nd Petitioner
SS# ____ - ____ -XXXX
dob (mo/yr) ____ / ____

**AFFIDAVIT OF INCOME, EXPENSES
AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

STATE OF OHIO, SS:

Now comes _____, the Affiant herein, and having been duly cautioned and sworn, states he/she has been advised that this affidavit may be used for any of all of the following purposes: (1) to make complete disclosure of affiant's income, liabilities and expenses; (2) to assist in determining orders of support when applicable.

I. TEMPORARY ORDERS / OTHER ACTIVE CASES:

- ____ I do **not** request temporary orders.
- ____ I request a temporary order for ____ custody, ____ child support, ____ and /or ____ spousal support.
- ____ A Domestic Violence Order in Case No. _____ is currently in effect.
- ____ A Juvenile Court or URESA Order in Case No. _____ is currently in effect.
- ____ A Bankruptcy action in Case No. _____ was filed on _____.

DATE OF SEPARATION (new actions only) _____

II. MINOR AND/OR DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF THIS MARRIAGE:

- ____ DOB: _____ Residing with _____
- ____ DOB: _____ Residing with _____
- ____ DOB: _____ Residing with _____
- ____ DOB: _____ Residing with _____

Employment or school related child care expenses for these children: \$ _____ per year.

III. INCOME:

A. GROSS ANNUAL INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT:

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| PLAINTIFF / 1 st PETITIONER | | DEFENDANT / 2 nd PETITIONER |
| _____ | Employer | _____ |
| _____ | Payroll Address | _____ |
| _____ | City, State, Zip Code | _____ |
| _____ (Actual / Estimate) | Base Yearly Wages (Actual / Estimate) | _____ |

B. ANNUAL INCOME FROM OVERTIME, COMMISSIONS AND BONUSES:

(Past Three Year History—Year 3 is the Most Recent Year)

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 20__ Year 1 \$ _____ | 20__ Year 1 \$ _____ |
| 20__ Year 2 \$ _____ | 20__ Year 2 \$ _____ |
| 20__ Year 3 \$ _____ | 20__ Year 3 \$ _____ |

C. OTHER YEARLY INCOME:

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| _____ | Interest /Dividend | _____ |
| _____ | Unemployment Income | _____ |
| _____ | Workers' Compensation, Social Security or Other Disability Benefits | _____ |
| _____ | Social Security & Pension Income | _____ |
| _____ Total Income from All Sources (A plus B plus C) _____ | | |

D. OTHER ASSETS AND LUMP SUM INCOME:

1. Describe income sources listed in Section C (i.e. retirement / pension benefits, disability income, interest or dividends, rentals, annuities, etc.) Attach additional pages if necessary.

| Name & Address of Source | Income or Benefits |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

2. List any lump sum income (bonus, gift, inheritance, etc.) in excess of \$500.00 expected to be received within the next six months, not otherwise listed in this Affidavit

3. List all funds on deposit in any and all accounts in any bank, savings & loan, regulated investment company, mutual fund or other financial institution. Account includes any of the following: checking,

savings, certificates of deposit (CD's), IRA's, stock options, etc.

Name & Address of Financial Institution Name on Account Balance

IV. OTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILDREN OR CHILD SUPPORT CALCULATIONS:

| | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| \$ _____ per year | Child Support Ordered for Other Children Not of this Marriage... | \$ _____ per year |
| \$ _____ per year | Court Ordered Spousal Support | \$ _____ per year |
| _____ | Number of Other Minor Children Living with You (Not including step children) | _____ |
| \$ _____ per year | Child Support Received for Other Children Living with You | \$ _____ per year |
| _____ % | Local City or County Income Tax Rate | _____ % |
| _____ % | Local School Income Tax Rate | _____ % |

V. AFFIANT'S MONTHLY EXPENSES

List your monthly expenses for your present household. If you expect changes in your expenses soon, attach a separate sheet with your estimated expenses. If you are living with parents or someone is helping you with your expenses, please state this.

There are _____ adults and _____ children in my household.

1. Housing

| | |
|---|-------|
| Rent or Mortgage (including taxes and insurance) | _____ |
| Utilities: | |
| Gas and Electric (level billing or average per month) | _____ |
| Water and Sewer | _____ |
| Basic Telephone (excluding long distance) | _____ |
| Other | _____ |

HOUSING TOTAL _____

2. Other

| | |
|--|-------|
| Grocery (include food, laundry & cleaning products and toiletries) | _____ |
| Insurance (life / auto) | _____ |
| Medical (not covered by insurance) | _____ |
| Clothing | _____ |
| Car repairs | _____ |
| Gasoline and Oil | _____ |
| Other | _____ |

OTHER MONTHLY EXPENSES TOTAL _____

3. Monthly Debt Payment

Do not list expenses listed previously. Attach a separate page if necessary.

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| TO WHOM PAID | PURPOSE | TOTAL BALANCE DUE | MONTHLY PAYMENT |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|

Monthly Debt Payment Total _____

GRAND TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES _____

VI. HEALTH INSURANCE

Group Health Insurance Available for Dependent Children

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Plaintiff / Petitioner | | Defendant / Petitioner |
| Yes / No | Available through employment | Yes / No |
| Yes / No | Other Group Plan | Yes / No |
| _____ | Insurance Company Name | _____ |
| _____ | Address | _____ |
| _____ | Policy Number | _____ |
| \$ _____ Per year / month (individual) | Employee Cost | \$ _____ Per year / month |
| | | (individual) |
| \$ _____ Per year / month (family) | | \$ _____ Per year / month |
| | | (family) |

ARE CHILDREN CURRENTLY ENROLLED? YES / NO

Affiant states that the information contained herein and attached hereto is complete and accurate to the best of his / her information, knowledge or belief, under penalty of law.

 Affiant

Sworn to me and subscribed in my presence this _____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord, 20_____.

 Notary Public

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF DARKE COUNTY, OHIO

Plaintiff / 1st Petitioner
SS# ____-____-_____
dob ____ / ____ / ____
Maiden name: _____

Case No. _____

CSEA No. _____

vs. / and

Defendant / 2nd Petitioner
SS# ____-____-_____
dob ____ / ____ / ____
Maiden name: _____

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FOR IDENTIFICATION OF THE PARTIES

To assist with accurate identification of a party, when any domestic relations case is filed or any motion to invoke the Court's continuing jurisdiction is filed, the party or their attorney shall provide on a separate pleading the full name, complete social security number, complete date of birth, and maiden name (if applicable).

As required by R.C. 3105.72, as modified by Local Rule 7(B), the information provided herein shall be furnished to the Court, but maintained in non-public files for purposes which the Court determines to be appropriate. This form shall not be filed with the Clerk of Courts but, instead, shall be provided directly to the Court.

Signature of moving party / complainant
or their attorney of record

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, DARKE COUNTY, OHIO
DOMESTIC RELATIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

FILL IN COMPLETELY FOR BOTH PARTIES

Case No. _____

PLAINTIFF:

Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____
 Attorney: _____ Phone: _____
 Parents: _____
 Father's name (even if deceased) Mother's name (even if deceased)

DEFENDANT:

Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____
 Attorney: _____ Phone: _____
 Parents: _____
 Father's name (even if deceased) Mother's name (even if deceased)

PERSONAL HISTORY

PLAINTIFF

DEFENDANT

Birthdate: (mo/yr) _____ / _____ Age: _____
 Birthplace: _____
 (City & State)

Birthdate: (mo/yr) _____ / _____ Age: _____
 Birthplace: _____

(City & State)
 Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - XXXX

Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - XXXX

DURATION OF RESIDENCE:
 Darke County _____ years, Ohio _____ years

DURATION OF RESIDENCE:
 Darke County _____ years, Ohio _____ years

SOCIAL STATUS PRIOR TO THIS MARRIAGE:
 Single: ___ Widowed: ___ Married: ___ Annulled: ___
 Divorced: ___ Number of times: _____
 Dissolution: ___ Number of times: _____

SOCIAL STATUS PRIOR TO THIS MARRIAGE:
 Single: ___ Widowed: ___ Married: ___ Annulled: ___
 Divorced: ___ Number of times: _____
 Dissolution: ___ Number of times: _____

OCCUPATION: _____
 Hours worked: _____ M. to _____ M.
 Employer: _____
 Address: _____

OCCUPATION: _____
 Hours worked: _____ M. to _____ M.
 Employer: _____
 Address: _____

Gross weekly earnings: \$ _____

Gross weekly earnings: \$ _____

MILITARY: Presently active: Yes _____ No _____

MILITARY: Presently active: Yes _____ No _____

JOINT INFORMATION

Date of this marriage: _____
 Place of this marriage: _____
 Place license issued: _____

Date of Separation: _____
 (as man and wife)
 Who left home first?: Plaintiff _____ Defendant _____

Complete Reverse Side

NOTE: If either or both parties had more than one previous divorce, the information below must be given in full for each prior divorce. Use additional sheet if more than one divorce prior to this marriage.

PLAINTIFF

DEFENDANT

Date of former Divorce: _____
Place of former Divorce: _____
Decree awarded to: Plaintiff _____ Defendant _____
Name of ex-spouse: _____

Date of former Divorce: _____
Place of former Divorce: _____
Decree awarded to: Plaintiff _____ Defendant _____
Name of ex-spouse: _____

IS WIFE PREGNANT? Yes _____ No _____ Please give expected due date: _____

CHILDREN OF PRESENT MARRIAGE: (regardless of age)

| Name | Birthdate | Age | Sex | School | Grade | Living with |
|------|-----------|-----|-----|--------|-------|-------------|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

OTHER CHILDREN OF PLAINTIFF:

OTHER CHILDREN OF DEFENDANT:

LAND OR REAL ESTATE: (Do not list personal property)

Location of property in Plaintiff's name
ONLY: _____

Location of property in Defendant's name
ONLY: _____

Location of property in Both names
ONLY: _____

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Circle last year completed.

Plaintiff

Defendant

None: _____
Elementary: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
High School: 9 10 11 12 Graduated: _____
College: 1 2 3 4
Other: _____

None: _____
Elementary: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
High School: 9 10 11 12
Graduated: _____
College: 1 2 3 4
Other: _____

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, DARKE COUNTY, OHIO
Greenville, Ohio 45331 (937) 547-7325

JONATHAN P. HEIN, Judge

GEORGANNE HUBER, Magistrate

NOTICE TO ATTEND PARENTING PROGRAM

(Local Rule 7G)

You are a party to a domestic relations action in which issues of parental rights and responsibilities are to be determined. In order to assist the Court in making the best decision for the children and in an attempt to minimize the negative impact this matter may have on your children, the Court requires the parties to attend a program which provides information on how the parents' separation affects their children, and which teaches ways to minimize problems in the future. The program is intended to benefit all parties equally, but it is your children who benefit the most from your participation.

You are required to complete a program prior to the Court hearing and deciding your case. Your attendance is required by local court rule as authorized by state statutes and Supreme Court Rules. If you fail to attend, you may be found in contempt of court for which you may receive a jail sentence and/or a fine. In addition, your failure to attend may be considered by the Court when issues of custody or visitation are determined.

After completing a program, it is necessary to file with the Clerk of Courts your certificate of completion. This certificate must be provided by the program and verifies your satisfactory completion of the parenting program.

Program at the Ohio State University Extension Office

A program is held on rotating dates each month at the Ohio State University Extension Office, 603 Wagner Avenue, Greenville, Ohio. There is a fee of \$35.00 per person which is payable one week in advance of the date you attend. You should arrive ten minutes prior to the session. You must be present during the entire program. If you are late, you will not be admitted; if you leave early, you will not receive a certificate. Call the Extension Office at (937) 548-5215 to register for the program or to obtain further information.

Programs Sponsored by Faith Based Organizations

Various faith based programs are available to fulfill the obligations of the Court. These programs may require different time commitments and financial charges. Individuals interested in faith-based programs are encouraged to inquire with the program and then verify that the content will meet the Court's requirements. Approved faith-based programs include: (1) *Children in the Middle*, c/o Catholic Social Services, Sidney, Ohio 937-498-4593; (2) *Divorce Care*, offered by various area churches on a periodic basis; (3) *Agreeable Parenting When Parents Disagree*, c/o Pastor Steve Short, Greenville 937-547-0009. These programs may also provide counseling and education for children of the parties.

STANDARD SCHEDULE FOR MINIMUM PARENTING TIME
Darke County Court of Common Pleas

JONATHAN P. HEIN, JUDGE
General Division

JASON R. ASLINGER, JUDGE
Probate / Juvenile Division

Parents are encouraged to create an equitable, written parenting time schedule that fits their circumstances and their children's lives, with the following minimum schedule to be used when the parents cannot agree, unless otherwise Ordered by the Court. The parents are encouraged to expand the schedule upon mutual agreement when in the best interests of the children. This schedule presumes that if the parents have more than one child, the parenting time will be exercised with all children together. Also, this schedule presumes the child is old enough to be away from its residential parent for extended time; if not, a phase in schedule should be established.

If a child indicates opposition to visiting the other parent, it shall be the responsibility of both parents to positively encourage non-residential parenting time, to appropriately resolve the situation by maturely discussing with the children the reasons for their opposition, and to work together to alleviate any opposition without confrontation or argument.

For children age five (5) and under, the court recommends to the parties the Ohio Supreme Court parenting education guide found at: www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Publications/JCS/parentingGuide.pdf.

1. WEEKENDS: The non-residential parent shall have parenting time on alternating weekends from Friday at 5:30 p.m. to Sunday at 5:30 p.m. If Monday is a holiday for the non-residential parent, parenting time extends to Monday at 5:30 p.m. A recommended extension of overnight weekend parenting time is encouraged, such as commencing Thursday evening or ending Monday morning.

2. WEEKDAY: The non-residential parent shall have parenting time from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each Wednesday evening. If the children are involved in religious or other activities at this time, the parties are encouraged to select another night.

3. HOLIDAYS: In even numbered years, father shall have the children on the holidays in Column 1 and mother shall have the holidays in Column 2. In odd numbered years, mother shall have the children on the holidays in Column 1 and father shall have the holidays in Column 2.

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Easter or Passover | Martin Luther King Day |
| Memorial Day | Fourth of July |
| Labor Day | Thanksgiving |

Holiday parenting time shall be from 5:30 p.m. on the day before the holiday to 5:30 p.m. on the day of the holiday. When the holiday falls on a Monday immediately following a non-residential parenting time weekend, the non-residential parent shall be entitled to keep the children continuously from Friday at 5:30 p.m. to Monday at 5:30 p.m.

4. WINTER BREAK: In all even-numbered years, the father shall have the children from 9:00 a.m. the day after school recesses (or 9:00 a.m. on December 20th if the children are not in school) to 3:00 p.m. December 25th. The mother shall have the children from 3:00 p.m. December 25th to 5:30 p.m. January 1st. In all odd-numbered years, the reverse schedule shall apply.

5. SUMMER VACATION: The non-residential parent shall have parenting time for 28 days each summer. Summer parenting time shall be taken in two 14 day segments, separated by not less than 7 consecutive days, unless otherwise agreed. The 14 day segments shall not be extended because other non-residential parenting time falls within the chosen summer vacation period. The parent who is entitled to have parenting time with the children on the July 4th holiday, as provided above, has priority to choose summer parenting time dates, provided written notice is given to the other parent by May 1st of each year. If written notice is not given by May 1st, then the other parent has priority in the scheduling of summer parenting time.

Except for uninterrupted parenting time, as referenced in the following paragraph, the regular alternate weekend and holiday parenting schedule shall continue throughout the summer, with each parent continuing to have the children on the weekends and holidays said parent would normally have them pursuant to this schedule. The residential parent shall be entitled to exercise the mid-week parenting time that the non-residential parent would normally exercise during the non-residential parent's summer parenting time.

During the summer parenting time, each parent is entitled to a maximum of 14 days of uninterrupted parenting time to allow for a parent's scheduled, out-of-town, overnight vacation plans. The out-of-town vacation time shall be scheduled as set forth above with written notice provided to the other parent. When exercising out-of-town vacation time, each parent shall provide the other parent with destination, times of departure and arrival, and mode of travel.

6. SPRING BREAK: The parent not having the priority of choice for choosing summer parenting time shall have the children for any spring break from school starting at 9:00 a.m. the day after school recesses until 5:30 p.m. the day before school resumes. If there is a conflict between spring break and Easter schedules, the parent entitled to the Easter Holiday is entitled to such time. Spring break applies to all children if any child is of school age.

7. MOTHER'S / FATHER'S DAY: Mother's Day shall always be spent with the mother, and Father's Day shall always be spent with the father, regardless of which parent is entitled to the weekend. If the parties cannot agree, the time shall be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

8. BIRTHDAYS: In all even-numbered years, the father shall have all the children on each child's birthday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. In odd-numbered years, the mother shall have the birthdays. Siblings are expected to attend.

9. DARKE COUNTY FAIR: The week of the Darke County Fair shall not be taken as a "vacation" week by either parent, and shall be divided equally between the parties pursuant to the following arrangement, which deviates from the above summer parenting arrangement:

a. During even years the father shall get the children beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the Friday the fair begins, and shall keep the children until Tuesday at 8:30 p.m., at which time they shall be delivered to the mother's residence. Mother shall have the children from Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. until Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

b. In odd numbered years mother shall have the children from 6:00 p.m. on the Friday the fair begins, and shall keep the children until Tuesday at 8:30 p.m., at which time the children shall be delivered to father's residence. Father shall then have the children from Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. until Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

c. The above schedule shall not hinder a child from showing animals or being involved in 4-H or any other activities in which the child is scheduled to participate.

10. ORDER OF PRIORITY: In the event of conflicting dates and times, the following order of priority shall take precedence: Holidays; Spring / Summer / Winter Breaks; Birthdays; Mother's / Father's Day; Darke County Fair; Weekends; then Weekdays.

11. PROMPTNESS: Each parent shall have the children ready for pick up at the start and conclusion of all parenting time. The children and the residential parent have no duty to wait for the non-residential parent to arrive for parenting time more than thirty (30) minutes, unless notified at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time. The non-residential parent who arrives more than thirty (30) minutes late without prior notification for a particular parenting time forfeits that parenting time, unless the residential parent otherwise agrees.

12. TRANSPORTATION: The non-residential parent shall be obligated to pick up the children for the commencement of parenting time. The residential parent shall be responsible for retrieving the children from the non-residential residence at the conclusion of the scheduled parenting time. Transportation should be made by the parent themselves; when necessary, another adult well known to the children may be used to pick up or drop off the children. Any person transporting the children shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and must be a licensed and insured driver. All child restraint and seat belt laws must be observed by the driver.

13. CANCELING NON-RESIDENTIAL PARENTING TIME: Except in emergency situations, the non-residential parent must give at least twenty-four (24) hours advance notice when canceling parenting time in order to be entitled to reschedule the cancelled parenting time.

14. MEDICAL TREATMENT AND EMERGENCIES: If any child becomes seriously ill or injured, each parent shall notify the other parent as soon as practicable. If any child becomes ill or injured during their time with the non-residential parent, said parent shall promptly contact the residential parent to authorize treatment unless the situation is a medical emergency.

15. TELEPHONE, MAIL AND E-MAIL: Neither parent shall interfere with telephone, mail or e-mail contact between the children and the other parent. Long-distance calls from an out-of-town parent shall be at that parent's expense.

16. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: The parents are encouraged to cooperate and communicate with one another before enrolling the children in extracurricular activities. Unless otherwise agreed, the parent enrolling the child in the activity shall bear the cost of such activity. Each parent shall provide to the other the date, time and location of the children's activities. Unless otherwise agreed, the parent who has parenting time shall be responsible for transporting the children to and/or from the activity.

17. RELOCATION: Each parent shall submit to the court and the other parent a Notice of Intent to Relocate at least 30 days prior to any change of residence. Such Notice shall provide the court with the anticipated new address, the effective date of the move and the last known address of the other parent.

18. LONG DISTANCE PARENTING TIME: In lieu of paragraphs 1-6, and with notice given as required in paragraph 5, the non-residential parent shall be entitled to the following parenting time when the parties live in excess of 150 miles apart:

a. Six weeks during the child's summer vacation from school.

b. One week each year during the child's Spring break from school.

c. Winter break, as indicated above, except that the exchange shall take place on December 26, so that the child does not spend Christmas Day traveling.

d. Whenever the non-residential parent is in close proximity to the community where the residential parent lives, and given twenty-four (24) hours notice, the non-residential parent shall be entitled to parenting time for a reasonable period of time, considering the circumstances at the time.

e. The non-residential parent shall be permitted to telephone the child at 6:00 p.m. eastern time on alternate Sundays commencing the first week the order goes into effect. The residential parent shall make sure that the children are available for the calls.

19. ACCESS TO RECORDS: The non-residential parent shall have access to the same records, same school activities and to any daycare center which the children attend on the same basis that said records or access is legally permitted to the residential parent, unless a restrictive order has been obtained by the court. It is the responsibility of the parent obtaining a restrictive order to serve it on the appropriate organization.

20. SUPPORT DEVIATION: Parenting time under the minimum schedule does not meet requirements for a 10% support deviation. The extended weekend overnight visitation schedule meets the requirement for the 10% deviation.

Adopted 06/01/06, Revised 01/01/15; Revised 5/10/19

PHASE-IN PARENTING SCHEDULE
Darke County Common Pleas Court

In cases where parent and child do not have a relationship, including circumstances involving very young children, it is in the child's best interests that parenting time with the non-residential parent be introduced on a limited basis.

1. Unless the parties agree otherwise, or subject to a modifying order, introductory parenting time shall be as follows:

- a. Parenting time shall occur once a week away from the residential parent's home at a neutral site, such as a suitable relative of the non-residential parent or a mutual friend of the parties.
- b. The non-residential parent must be willing to follow these rules.
- c. The child shall not be removed from the relative or friend's home during the parenting time.
- d. No alcoholic beverages or substances of abuse shall be used during the parenting time or prior thereto.
- e. Parenting time shall be for a three (3) hour period and shall be on a day of residential parent's choice and time, unless this conflicts with non-residential parent's work schedule. In such case, if the residential parent cannot choose another non-conflicting time, then the non-residential parent shall select the parenting time.

f. Introductory parenting time shall continue for four (4) weeks. If the non-residential parent misses any parenting time, the introductory parenting time shall continue until three (3) consecutive weeks of parenting time have occurred. This shall be known as the **First Introductory Phase of Parenting Time**.

2. Upon completion of the First Introductory Phase, the non-residential parent shall exercise parenting time one (1) day a week for six (6) hours for four (4) weeks. This pattern shall continue beyond four weeks until three (3) consecutive weeks of parenting have occurred. This shall be known as the **Second Introductory Phase of Parenting Time**.

3. Upon completion of the Second Phase of Parenting Time, the non-residential parent shall be permitted to exercise overnight parenting time with the child one (1) day every other week. The non-residential parent's parenting time shall commence at 10:00 a.m. and shall end at 10:00 a.m. the following day, unless the parties agree on another time. This parenting schedule shall continue for six (6) weeks. The non-residential parent shall also be permitted to exercise parenting time each Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., if his or her work schedule permits. The choice of the day for the overnight parenting time shall follow the selection process set out in the First Introductory Phase. This shall be known as the **Third Introductory Phase of Parenting Time**.

4. After successful completion of the three phases, the non-residential parent shall exercise parenting time in accordance with the Court's Standard Schedule for Parenting time or the parenting schedule agreed upon by the parties.

5. Nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting a different phase-in parenting schedule based on a mutual agreement of the parties.

6. Supervised visitation services are currently being offered by the EUM Church, 111 Devor Street, Greenville, OH. 937-548-3211 Parties are encouraged to investigate whether such services may be beneficial.