



COMMON PLEAS COURT

DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

Laura B. Smith, Judge

Memorandum

To: All
From: Judge Laura B. Smith
Date: October 15, 2025
Re: Proposed Amendments to the Local Rules of Court for the Fairfield County
Common Pleas Court - Domestic Relations Division

Please review the proposed amendments to the Local Rules of Court for the Fairfield County Common Pleas Court – Domestic Relations Division. The proposed amendments are open for public comment until November 14, 2025.

Local Rule 2.0 Pleadings: Format and Procedure

These proposed amendments were spurred by the recent move to electronic filing and the availability of the Supreme Court of Ohio Uniform Domestic Relations Forms.

Local Rule 12.0 Parent Education Class

These proposed amendments are due to the change in the parenting education classes offered and ordered by the Court.

Local Rule 27.0 Custody of Files and Exhibits

These proposed amendments are the result of recent modification to Superintendence Rule 26.06, which sets forth how long the court must keep exhibits following trial before destruction of the same.

Local Rule 30.0 Parentage Cases

The amendments to this rule reflect that there are other cases, besides those listed in the current version of Local Rule 30.2, which require the Court to determine if paternity has been established. For example, parties often fail to submit documentation with a Complaint for Divorce showing that paternity has been established for children born prior to marriage. Also, The CPR Search Results from the Central Paternity Registry indicate

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only that paternity has been established for the child, but the results do not identify a father, even when the name of a father is submitted with the child's name and date of birth to the Central Paternity Registry for verification.

Local Rule 31.0 Parenting Coordination

These amendments reflect recent modifications to Superintendence Rules 16.60-16.66.

Local Rule 32.0 Custody Evaluation

The creation of this rule is due to the requirement to establish a local rule regarding custody evaluations as set forth in Superintendence Rule 91.01 through 91.09.

Local Rule 33.0 Electronic Filing

The creation of this rule is a result of the electronic filing now available through the Fairfield County Clerk of Courts. This rule refers to the Administrative Order regarding Electronic Filing of Documents in the General and Domestic Relations Divisions of the Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas.

Standard Judgment Entry/Restraining Order

The proposed amendment to the Standard Judgment Entry/Restraining Order is due to R.C. 2903.216, which was enacted on March 20, 2025. This legislation requires parties to a divorce action or a dissolution action to lawfully uninstall or discontinue use of any tracking device or tracking application on the other spouse's property. The tracking device or tracking application is to be uninstalled or discontinued within 72 hours of service of the Complaint for Divorce or the Petition for Dissolution. If the person cannot lawfully uninstall or discontinue use of the tracking device within the stated 72 hours, the statute requires the party to notify the court of the same in writing. A form has been drafted for that purpose too, which is attached hereto. The statute includes similar provisions regarding use of tracking devices and tracking applications for parties to protection order cases. R.C. 2903.216 also states who has authority to track minor children. Pursuant to R.C. 2903.216(F), whoever violates R.C. 2903.216 is guilty of illegal use of a tracking device or application, which is a misdemeanor of the first degree, or a felony of the fourth degree in certain situations.

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OHIO
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION**

Name

Plaintiff/Petitioner 1

-vs/and-

Case No. _____

Judge Laura B. Smith

Name

Defendant/Petitioner 2/Respondent

Magistrate _____

WARNING: This form is not a substitute for the benefit of the advice of legal counsel. It is highly recommended that you consult an attorney.

NOTICE OF INABILITY TO UNINSTALL TRACKING DEVICE OR TRACKING APPLICATION

I, _____, cannot lawfully uninstall or discontinue use of the tracking
device or tracking application on the other party's property for the following reason(s): _____

Signature

Printed Name

Street Address

City, State, and Zip Code

Phone Number

E-mail

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

(Check the boxes that apply)

The Movant delivered a copy of the Notice of Inability to Uninstall Tracking Device or Tracking Application:

ON: [Print the date.] _____

TO: [Print the name of the other party's/parties' attorney(s). If there is no attorney for a party, print the name of the party.]

AT: [Print the mailing address(es), email address(es), or fax number(s) for the individual(s) listed above.]

BY: ☐ As instructed in the Request for Service (Uniform Domestic Relations Form 31/Uniform Juvenile Form 10) filed with the Clerk of Courts

☐ Regular U.S. Mail

☐ Email

☐ Fax

☐ Hand Delivery

☐ Other: _____

Signature

Printed Name