

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PROBATE / JUVENILE DIVISION GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO - JUDGE TIMOTHY J. GRENDELL Courthouse Annex, 2nd Floor 231 Main Street, Suite 200 Chardon, Ohio 44024

Telephone No. 440-226-4446

Fax Probation: 440-375-6811 Fax Court: 440-375-6810

# COURT POLICY REGARDING COURT EMPLOYEES PROVIDING LEGAL ADVICE

Ohio law and Codes of Conduct prohibit court employees, including deputy clerks, Resource Center staff, and Help Center staff from providing legal advice.

Deputy clerks may review paperwork that you present for filing to determine whether you have: (i) provided all required information, including required names, initials, and addresses, (ii) signed where required, and (iii) filed all paperwork, required by law, including the local court rules, such as required affidavits or instructions for service.

However, Deputy Clerks cannot tell you whether the paperwork that you present to the Clerk's Office, or the content of that paperwork, is adequate to satisfy your needs or intentions or satisfies all legal requirements, including the local court rules.

If you need legal advice, you should contact your attorney, otherwise call the Geauga County Bar Association at 440-286-7160 or the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland at 888-817-3777.

**Help Center -** The Court has established a Help Center. While the Help Center staff cannot provide you with legal advice, if you are not represented by an attorney, then the Help Center can assist you by providing general legal information and providing access to legal forms. A deputy clerk or Resource Center staff can give you additional information concerning the Help Center.



# RESOURCE CENTER INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR PRO SE FILINGS [Custody and Companionship Time]

[For Nonparent Use - Complaint (Abuse, Neglect, Dependency]

#### WARNING

This Instruction Sheet provides you with a brief overview of the subject matter. It may not provide you with all the information that you require to be fully informed of the law that is applicable to your case. While the Resource Center can provide you with a limited amount of information, the Resource Center cannot provide you with legal advice, and this Instruction Sheet is not intended to provide you with legal advice that is applicable to your case. You must decide how to best use the information and instructions provided without the benefit of legal advice unless you retain an attorney.

**Background** - The Resource Center cannot provide you with any legal advice regarding the selection or preparation of legal forms. The Court's Help Center offers a few legal forms and information sheets for your consideration, which are included in this package. Before selecting, completing, and filing the legal forms offered to you in this package, the Resource Center recommends that you first seek legal advice from an attorney of your choosing or seek assistance from the Court's Help Center.

This package includes a Complaint. A Complaint (rather than a Motion) should be selected if there is no legal proceeding in this Court regarding the minor child. If this Court already has a legal proceeding concerning the custody or companionship time (i.e., "visitation rights") of the minor child, no matter how long ago that legal proceeding was initiated, then a Motion should be selected. The Resource Center has other packages for Motions.

#### **General Instructions**

- 1. All forms must be typed or completed with blue or black ink, and the printing must be legible.
- 2. The Complaint offered in this package are intended for a Nonparent who has an interest in a minor child. Moreover, this complaint is intended for use by a Nonparent if the child(ren) is "abused, neglected, or dependent. If there currently is a JFS case pending that alleges abuse, neglect or dependency of a child and a Nonparent would like a custody order, then that Nonparent should file a motion in that case using the packet titled "Nonparent Motion Packet Custody/Parenting Time JFS Case. If you are a Parent and you decide to file a Complaint regarding custody or parenting time (i.e., "visitation" rights), then the Resource Center has another package for a Parent.
- 3. Certain documents must be notarized. Do not sign any document that must be notarized unless you are signing before a notary, including a deputy clerk, who is authorized to serve as a notary.
- 4. Do not present for filing any document in this package without first presenting to a deputy clerk (1) a government-issued photographic identification (e.g., a current driver's license or passport), and

- (2) evidence of current mailing address (e.g., recent utility bill, bank statement account, property tax bill, voter registration card).<sup>1</sup>
- 5. Be prepared to pay a court cost deposit, which will not exceed \$100. A deputy clerk will accept cash, personal check, or credit card. If you are an "indigent," then you may not be required to pay the court cost deposit. In that case prepare and file the Financial Disclosure Form (ODP-206R), together with the Complaint. A deputy clerk can supply you with that form.<sup>2</sup>

#### The Forms

1. **Complaint** – Form GC Juv 043 (Complaint [Abused, Neglected, or Dependent] for Custody, if the Nonparent seeks a custody order, resulting from the abuse, neglect or dependency of a child.

### **Key Notes**

- DO NOT insert a minor child's name in the Complaint. Only insert the child's initials where appropriate. You will provide the Court with the minor child's name and other pertinent information by preparing and filing a confidential document as explained below.
- Emergency Order If you want the Court to issue an emergency custody order, then in paragraph 11 of GC Juv 043, in the first item, be sure to check the box requesting an emergency order and the type of order (i.e., custody or companionship time).
- 2. **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** Form GC JF 5.0 (Disclosure of Confidential Child Information).

## **Key Notes**

- The purpose of this form is to keep confidential the identity of a minor child. Accordingly, this form is not a public record and will be kept in a separate confidential file.
- 3. **IDENTITY OF NECESSARY PARTIES** Form GC JF 5.1 (Identity of Necessary Parties).

## **Key Notes**

The purpose of this form is to inform the Court of all necessary parties that are required by Juv. R. 2(Y). Necessary parties include the parents of minor child(ren) and if applicable (1) a guardian of the child(ren), (ii) a legal custodian if the child(ren) are not living with a parent, (iii) a guardian ad litem, and possibly other persons. A necessary party to this case is The Geauga County Job & Family Services - 12480 Ravenwood Dr, Chardon, OH 44024.

4. **JURISDICTON AFFIDAVIT** – Form GC JF 1.0 (Jurisdiction Affidavit).

### **Key Notes**

 The purpose of this form is to alert the Court to other legal proceedings concerning the minor child, whether the legal proceeding is in another Ohio court or that of another State. Ohio law and the Court's Local Rules require that this form be prepared and filed whenever a new legal proceeding is initiated in this Court.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Rule 10 of the Geauga County Juvenile Court Local Rules.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Rule 5 of the Geauga County Juvenile Court Local Rules.

### 5. INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE - Form GC JF 7.0 (Request for Service).

## **Key Notes**

- A deputy clerk must provide all persons, who have a direct interest in the matter and the minor child,<sup>3</sup> a summons and copy of the Complaint. Those persons should be identified either in (i) form GC JF 5.0 (Disclosure of Confidential Child Information) or (ii) paragraph seven of the Complaint. This form must be prepared and filed in order to give the deputy clerk the necessary information and directions. A necessary party to this case is The Geauga County Job & Family Services 12480 Ravenwood Dr, Chardon, OH 44024.
- If the address of an interested person is unknown, then you must arrange for that person to be notified by "publication" of the summons and a copy of the Complaint.
  - Form GC JF 3.1 (Affidavit for Service by Publication) you must prepare and file this form together with Form GC JF 7.0 (Request for Service) if the address of an interested person is unknown. If you select publication by the Court's website, then prepare the top portion (including the person's name and last known address) of form GC JF 3.2A – Court's Website Publication Notice. The clerk will insert the hearing information.
  - Note that at the bottom of Form GC JF 3.1 (Affidavit for Service by Publication) you
    must select whether "publication" should be made by newspaper or by the Court's
    website. Newspaper publication will have a significant cost while website publication
    does not.
  - If you select newspaper publication, then you must prepare and file Form GC JF 3.2 (Instructions for Service by Newspaper Publication).

#### 6. ALLEGATION AFFIDAVIT – Form GC Juv 038 (Affidavit)

#### **Key Notes**

If you are requesting in the Complaint that the Court issue an emergency (ex parte) custody or companionship time order, then you should prepare and file with the Complaint an affidavit that sets forth specific facts, which support your allegation that there is an emergency regarding the minor child and thus the Court should issue an immediate emergency order.

7. STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING – Form GC JF 16.0 (Statement of Understanding)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Again, see Rule 2(Y) of the Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure.

# IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS JUVENILE DIVISION GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO

In Re:			Case No
			Case No
			Case No
			I.D. No
COM	PLAI	NT - ABUSED, NEGLECTED, OR	Judge Timothy J. Grendell
DEPE	ENDE	NT CHILD [R.C. 2151.23(A)(1)]	
Filad l	27.	and	
riieu (	Jy		
		The Child(ren	n)
1.	whos	court proceeding concerns the minor childese name, date of birth, and current addressement filed with the Court, (the "Children."	s are described in a separate confidential
		Jurisdiction	ı
2.	Selec	ct One:	
	[]	The Child(ren) has/have lived with a pa	rent or a person acting as a parent in Ohio
		for at least six months before the filing	of this pleading and thus Ohio courts have
		jurisdiction under R.C. §3127.15(A). J	uvenile court has jurisdiction under R.C.
		§2151.23(A)(1).	J
	[]	Other:	
		Venue	
		, , , , ,	
3.		aga County is the county in which the ement, or in which the violation, unruliness	<del>_</del>

# **Other Facts**

4. Plaintiff has knowledge that the following described child(ren) is/are abused, neglected, or dependent as contemplated by R.C. 2151.23(A)(1) and R.C. 2151.27.

5.	The mother is:
	The father(s) is/are identified on form GC JF 5.0.
6.	Plaintiff is:  [ ] not related to the Child(ren)  [ ] related to the Child(ren) as follows:
7.	The Child(ren) is/are [] Abused as defined by R.C. 2151.031, [] Neglected as defined by R.C. 2151.03, or [] Dependent as defined by R.C. 2151.04 and the particular facts and applicable sub-sections that support the allegation are set forth below:
8.	Other:
9.	The court order requested below is in the best interest of the Child(ren).  Request
10	. I request that this Court (select as applicable):
	grant me an emergency order (i.e. ex parte order) regarding child custody because the best interest and welfare of the Child(ren) require immediate issuance. The facts supporting this request are set forth in the attached affidavit.
	[ ] grant me legal custody of the Child(ren);

[]	grant me temporary custody of the	Child(ren);	
[]	if I am not granted legal or temporeasonable companionship or visita	emporary custody of the Child(ren), then grant me visitation rights;	
[]	support; determine who should	nts pay to me an appropriate amount of child provide private health insurance coverage; rt; and determine who should pay non-insured	
[]	an order that one or both of parents child support;	s pay to me an appropriate amount of temporary	
[]	determine the father/child relations	hip.	
[]	Other:		
	r Signature	Your Signature Print Name	
Stree	et Address	Street Address	
City,	State, Zip Code	City, State, Zip Code	
Tele	phone Number	Telephone number	
State of Ohi County of G	eauga		
	d subscribed before me by		
this da	y of,	20	
		Notary Public/Deputy Clerk	

# MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT [Juvenile Rule 19]

- 1. Ohio is the Home State for determination of child custody under R.C. §3127.15(A) and for determination of child support as defined in R.C. §3115.102.
- 2. This Court has exclusive original jurisdiction to determine child custody under R.C. §2151.23(A)(2).
- 3. This Court has exclusive original jurisdiction to determine child support under R.C. §2151.23(A)(11) and R.C. §2151.231.
- 4. Venue in this Court is proper under R.C. 2151.27(D) and Juv. R. 10(A).
- 5. This Court may exercise its jurisdiction to determine child custody and parenting time under R.C. §2151.23(F)(1) and accordance with R.C. §3109.04.
- 6. This Court may exercise its jurisdiction to determine child support under R.C. §2151.23(F)(2) and R.C. §2151.231; and accordance with R.C. §3109.05 and R.C. Chapter 3119.
- 7. "Although the juvenile court has jurisdiction over both private custody cases and cases initialed by children's services agencies (i.e. Geauga County Job & Family Services), its jurisdiction over the former is based on R.C. 2151.23(A)(2), and the latter on R.C. 2151.23(A)(1)," *In re Trowbridge*, 2004-Ohio-2645.
- 8. *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57, 120 S. Ct.2054, 147 L.Ed.2d 49 (2000), recognized that a parent has a "fundamental liberty right" that is guaranteed by the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to determine the custody, care, and nurturing of a child. See also *Harrold v. Collier*, 107 Ohio St.3d 44, 2005-Ohio-5334, 836 N.E.2d. 1165 regarding *Troxel*, and its applicability to R.C. 3109.11 and 3109.12 and *In re Hockstok*, 98 Ohio St.3d 238, 781 N.E.2d 971 (2002). "Nevertheless, a parent's paramount right to custody of his or her children is not unlimited. . . . If a parent is unsuitable, the parent forfeits his or her paramount right to custody." See In re J.R.A., 2014-Ohio-4463 [4<sup>th</sup> App. Dist.].
- 9. Unsuitability of a parent is established if (1) the parent has abandon the child, (2) has contractually relinquished the child, (3) the parent is totally incapable of supporting or caring for the child, or (4) an award of custody would be detrimental to the child See *In re Perales*, 52 Ohio St. 2d 89, 98 (1977); and In re H.J.H., 2019-Ohio-116.

- 10. "... a custody decision made under R.C. 2151.23(A)(2) does not require a preliminary finding that the child is abused, neglected, or dependent and is based on a lesser standard of proof—preponderance of the evidence rather than clear and convincing evidence." See *In re J.R.A.*, 2014-Ohio-4463 [4<sup>th</sup> App. Dist.]
- 11. R.C. 2151.234 grants a juvenile court jurisdiction to determine custody if the parents are married provided that the parents relinquished custody to the custodian pursuant to a "kinship care agreement."
- 12. The phrase "detrimental to the child" is not defined by the Revised Code, but for an award of custody to a parent to be detrimental to a child, there must be serious problems with the unsuitable parent. *In re R.J.E.*, 2017-Ohio-886 (11<sup>th</sup> App. Dist.); *In re C.V.M. Jr.*, 2012-Ohio-5514 (8<sup>th</sup> App. Dist.).
- 13. If the parents are "unsuitable" a nonparent may be awarded custody of a minor child. See *In re Perales*, 52 Ohio St.3d 89, 369 N.E.2d 1047 (1977); *Massitto v. Masitto*, 22 Ohio St. 3d 63, 488 N.E.2d 857 (1986); *In re Hockstok*, 98 Ohio St.3d 238 at 241, 244 (2002); and *In re H.J.H.*, 2019-Ohio-116 (5<sup>th</sup> App. Dist.).
- 14. R.C. 2151.231 permits the Court to grant child support to a person having custody of a minor child, including a request for a paternity determination.
- 15. A court may use the past conduct of a parent to predict future conduce. *In re Bishop*, 36 Ohio App.3d 123; *In re E.B.*, 2014-Ohio-5764 (11<sup>th</sup> App. Dist.)
- 16. A trial court enjoys broad discretion in custody proceedings because "custody issues are some of the most difficult and agonizing decisions a trial judge must make." *Davis v. Flickinger*, 77 Ohio St.3d 415, 418, 1997-Ohio-260, 674 N.E.2d 1159. A trial court's custody determination will not be disturbed unless the court abused that discretion. *Miller v. Miller*, 37 Ohio St.3d 71, 74, 523 N.E.2d 846 (1988). An "abuse of discretion" connotes that the court's attitude is "unreasonable, arbitrary, or unconscionable." <u>Blakemore v. Blakemore</u>, 5 Ohio St.3d 217, 219, 450 N.E.2d 1140 (1983); <u>Booth v. Booth</u>, 44 Ohio St.3d 142, 144, 541 N.E.2d 1028 (1989).
- 17. See *C.V.M. Jr.*, 2012-Ohio-5514 (8<sup>th</sup> App. Dist.) "The 'suitability' test is different from the "best interest" test. A pure "best interest" test looks totally to the best situation available to the child and places the child in that situation. *Thrasher v. Thrasher*, 3 Ohio App.3d 210, 213, 444 N.E.2d 431 (9th Dist.1981). The Perales test, however, requires that some detriment to the child be shown before he is taken away from an otherwise suitable parent. Id. Unsuitability does not necessarily connote some moral or character weakness. *Perales* at 99. Simply because one situation or environment is the "better" situation does not mean the other is detrimental or harmful to the child. *In re Porter*, 113 Ohio App.3d 580, 589, 681 N.E.2d 954 (3d Dist.1996). Moreover, while the welfare of the child is a primary

consideration, the right of parents to raise their own child is an essential and basic civil right; natural parents have a paramount right, as against third parties, to custody of their children. *In re Pryor*, 86 Ohio App.3d 327, 334, 620 N.E.2d 973 (4th Dist. 1993); *In re Murray*, 52 Ohio St.3d 155, 157, 556 N.E.2d 1169 (1990)."

Rev. 05-10-21 GC JF 5.0

# IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS JUVENILE DIVISION GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO

In Re:		Case No
A Minor		ID W
		I.D. No
DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIA CHILD INFORMATION	L .	Judge Timothy J. Grendell
Filed by:		
The following is <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> is this court proceeding by their initials,	_	g the identity of Child(ren), who are identified in
1. Initials: Child's Name:		D.O.B
Child's Address:		Custodian
Father is:	D.O.B	Paternity Established [] Yes [] No
2. Initials: Child's Name:		D.O.B
Child's Address:		Custodian
Father is:	D.O.B	Paternity Established [] Yes [] No
3. Initials: Child's Name:		D.O.B
Child's Address:		Custodian
Father is:	D.O.B	Paternity Established [] Yes [] No
4. Initials: Child's Name:		D.O.B
Child's Address:		Custodian
Father is:	D.O.B	Paternity Established [] Yes [] No
5. Initials: Child's Name:		D.O.B
Child's Address:		Custodian
		Paternity Established [] Yes [] No
Mother is:		D.O.B
Dated:	Signatur	re
	$\sim$	

Rev. 04-10-21 GC JF 5.1

# IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS JUVENILE DIVISION GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO

In	Re:	Case No
	A Minor	ID No
IDENTITY OF NECESSARY PARTIES		I.D. No
		Judge Timothy J. Grendell
pa		hose persons (other than a child) who are necessary their current contact information and relationship to llowing are necessary parties:
1.	Name:	Relationship:
	Address:	Tel
2.	Name:	Relationship:
	Address:	Tel
3.	Name:	Relationship:
	Address:	Tel
4.	Name:	Relationship:
	Address:	Tel
5.	Name:	Relationship:
	Address:	Tel
6.	Name:	Relationship:
	Address:	Tel
Da	nted:	
		Print Name
		Attorney Reg. No

Rev 10-30-20 GC JF 1.0

# IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS JUVENILE DIVISION GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO

In Re:	Case No	I.D. No
A Minor		Judge Timothy J. Grendell

## **JURISDICTION AFFIDAVIT [R.C. § 3127.23(A)]**

INSTRUCTION: Insert the following information for each minor child for which the custody and visitation is to be determined by this Court. While this case is pending, you must promptly inform the Court of any parenting proceeding in any other court, in this or any other state, concerning these minor children. Use addition sheets if needed.

## INSERT INFORMATION REGARDING MINOR CHILD(REN) FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

Initials:	Place of Birth:	
Date of Birth:		
Period of Residence		Relatio
to Present	(name and address)	
to		
to		
to		
[ ] By checking this hay	no need to insert the same time and address information provide	ed ahove
Initials:	no need to insert the same time and address information provide  Place of Birth:	
	no need to insert the same time and address information provide  Place of Birth:	
Initials: Date of Birth:	no need to insert the same time and address information provide  Place of Birth:  Sex [] Male [] Female  Person with whom Child lived  (name and address)	
Initials: Date of Birth: Period of Residence	no need to insert the same time and address information provide  Place of Birth: Sex [] Male [] Female  Person with whom Child lived  (name and address)	
Initials: Date of Birth: Period of Residence to Present	no need to insert the same time and address information provide  Place of Birth:  Sex [] Male [] Female  Person with whom Child lived  (name and address)	

Rev 07-23-20 GC Juv 1.0

		o need to insert the same time and ac Place of Birth: _		
Dat	e of Birth:	Sex	[] Male [] Female	
Peri	iod of Residence	Person with whom Child lived		Relationship
		(name and address)		
	to Present			
	to			
	to			
	to			
1.	or any other state, confor the care of the child legal custodian of the of Please explain if you	not - participated as a party, a witnes cerning the allocation, between the p d including any designation of parentin child or that otherwise concerned the nave participated – providing in each dgment, and (4) the names of minor of	arents of the same child, on ng time rights and the desig custody of or visitation wit proceeding (1) the type of	f parental rights and responsibilities ration of the residential parent and h the same child.
2.	current proceeding, in domestic violence or p proceedings seeking to Please explain if you	eve no - knowledge of any proceeding cluding proceedings for enforcement rotection orders, proceedings to adjustration of parental rights, and adopare such knowledge — providing in ear judgment, and (4) the names of min	of child custody deterned dicate the child as an abuse ptions.  Placed proceeding (1) the type	ninations, proceedings relating to ed, neglected, or dependent child,
3.	child or claims to be a have parenting time ri visitation rights with re	no - knowledge of any person who is a parent of the child who is designate ghts with respect to the child or to be sespect to the child and, if so, the name have such knowledge — providing in	ed the residential parent a a person other than a paren es and addresses of those p	and legal custodian of the child or to not of the child who has custody or persons.
		uch person claims custody or visitatio	n rights, and (3) name of e	each minor child with respect to each
	person, (2) whether so such person.  [ ]  The health, so		d(ren) would be jeopardi	each minor child with respect to each
	person, (2) whether so such person.  [ ]  The health, so information, and thus  I,  and belief, the facts a	afety, or liberty of me and the chil I request that the Court seal and not o , swear and affir nd information stated in this affidavi	d(ren) would be jeopardi disclose the information in m that I have read this aff it are true, accurate, and o	zed by the disclosure of identifying accordance with R.C. 3127.23(D).
	person, (2) whether so such person.  [ ]  The health, so information, and thus  I,  and belief, the facts a not tell the truth, I may state of Ohio	afety, or liberty of me and the chil request that the Court seal and not o	d(ren) would be jeopardi disclose the information in m that I have read this aff it are true, accurate, and o	zed by the disclosure of identifying accordance with R.C. 3127.23(D). idavit. To the best of my knowledge complete. I acknowledge that if I do
	person, (2) whether so such person.  [ ] The health, so information, and thus  I,	afety, or liberty of me and the chil I request that the Court seal and not o , swear and affir nd information stated in this affidavi	d(ren) would be jeopardi disclose the information in m that I have read this aff it are true, accurate, and o	zed by the disclosure of identifying accordance with R.C. 3127.23(D). idavit. To the best of my knowledge complete. I acknowledge that if I do

Rev. 10-30-20 GC JF 7.0

# Court of Common Pleas Juvenile Division Geauga County, Ohio

In Re	Case #
REQUEST FOR SERVICE	ID#
	Judge Timothy J. Grendell
Please serve the following document: _	
Name:	
Address:	
[] Certified Mail/Return Receipt	[] Sheriff/Constable by [] Personal or [] Residence
Name:	
Address:	
[ ] Certified Mail/Return Receipt [ ] [ ] Other	] Sheriff/Constable by [ ] Personal or [] Residence
Name:	
Address:	
[ ] Certified Mail/Return Receipt [ ] [ ] Other	] Sheriff/Constable by [ ] Personal or [] Residence
Name:	
Address:	
[ ] Certified Mail/Return Receipt [ ]	Sheriff/Constable by [] Personal or [] Residence
Print Name:	
Telephone:	

Rev. 10-30-20 GC Juv 038

# IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS JUVENILE DIVISION GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO

In Re:	Case No
A Minor	I.D. No
AFFIDAVIT	Judge Timothy J. Grendell
ī,	, state the following:
	Your Signature
State of Ohio County of Geauga	
Sworn to or affirmed and subscribed before me by	, thi
day of	
	Notary Public

Rev. 6-2-23

# IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

# JUVENILE DIVISION GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO

In 1	Re: Case No
	Case No
	Case No
	I.D. No
	STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING [R.C. 2151.353(A)(3)]
1.	I/We intend to become the legal custodian of the Child(ren), and I/We am/are able to assume legal responsibility for the care and supervision of the Child(ren).
2.	I/We understand that legal custody of the Child(ren) is intended to be permanent in nature and that I/We will be responsible as the custodian for the Child(ren) until a child reaches the age of majority (i.e. age 18). Responsibility as custodian for the child(ren) shall continue beyond the age of majority if, at the time a child reaches the age of majority, that child is pursuing a diploma granted by the board of education or other governing authority, successful completion of the curriculum of any high school, successful completion of an individualized education program developed for the student by any high school, or an age and schooling certificate. Responsibility beyond the age of majority shall terminate when a child ceases to continuously pursue such an education, completes such an education, or is excused from such an education under standards adopted by the state board of education, whichever occurs first.
3.	I/We understand that the parents of the Child(ren) have residual parental rights, privileges, and responsibilities, including, but not limited to, the privilege of reasonable visitation, consent to adoption, the privilege to determine the child's religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support.
4.	I/We understand that I/We must be present in court for the dispositional hearing in order to affirm that I/We intend to become legal custodian, to affirm that I/We understand the effect of the custodianship before the court, and that I/We will answer any questions that the court or any parties to the case may have.
5.	Other:
Yo	our Signature Your Signature

Print Name

Print Name

# **Help Center Information Sheets**

Before preparing and filing any pleading or other documents with the Court, you should read the following Help Center Information Sheets that may be applicable, which can be obtained from the Court's website, the Resource Center, or the Help Center.

- Nonparent Rights
- Jurisdiction of Ohio Juvenile Courts