

## PLAIN-ENGLISH GUIDE

# Family Law in Coshocton County

A plain-English map for divorce, dissolution, custody, support, and adoption in Coshocton County. Learn which court handles your case, what to file, what it costs, and when to get help.

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- 01** See how Coshocton County handles family law across the Common Pleas Court.

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  - 02** Know the difference between dissolution, divorce, juvenile custody, and probate adoption.

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  - 03** Find the right form, the deposit, and the local rules that trip people up.

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  - 04** Pick a next step that fits your budget, your timeline, and how much conflict there is.

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## START HERE

# Use this guide like a map, not a rulebook.

Family law gets easier once you name a few things: the court, the path, the paperwork, and your next step. This guide is built on those questions for Coshocton County.

01

## Which court handles this?

Married couples file divorce or dissolution in the Common Pleas Court. Unmarried parents file custody in the Juvenile Court. Adoptions go to the Probate Court. One judge leads both Juvenile and Probate.

02

## Do we agree, or is there a fight?

Agreement changes everything. Dissolution and uncontested filings run on signed paperwork. If someone disagrees, misses deadlines, or safety is a worry, plan for a more protective path.

03

## What should I gather first?

Gather any current orders and your income records. Add insurance details, the kids' birth certificates, school and parenting-time notes, and a short list of what you want the court to decide.

### THIS GUIDE IS INFORMATION, NOT LEGAL ADVICE

It explains how things usually work in Coshocton County. It cannot cover the facts of your case. Reading it, downloading it, or contacting Gavvl Law does not make you a client. Only a signed engagement agreement does that. For advice about your own case, talk with a licensed Ohio attorney.

### BRING YOUR OWN DECREE

A Coshocton quirk: for a dissolution, you bring your own signed Judgment Entry, the decree, to the hearing for the judge or magistrate to sign. Have it ready before the hearing date.

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Four parts: Domestic Relations (divorce and dissolution), Juvenile (unmarried parents), Probate (adoption), and how Gavvl can help. The full contents are on the next page.

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## QUESTION ONE

# Which court is actually handling your case?

One family can touch more than one court. In Coshocton County they are parts of the Common Pleas Court. Start with the relationship, and with what you need a judge to decide.

**MARRIED OR FORMERLY MARRIED**

## Common Pleas Court

Divorce, dissolution, legal separation, annulment, spousal support, and dividing property and debt.

**WHERE**

318 Main St. Clerk: (740) 622-1456.

**PARENTS NEVER MARRIED**

## Juvenile Court

Custody, parenting time, parentage, and child support for unmarried parents. Also abuse, neglect, and dependency.

**WHO HEARS IT**

Judge Jason W. Given.

**ADOPTION**

## Probate Court

Stepparent, kinship, and adult adoption, plus name changes and guardianships.

**WHERE**

426 Main St. Judge Given.

### Common Pleas, plus one combined division

Divorce and dissolution are heard in the Common Pleas Court at 318 Main Street. Unmarried-parent custody and adoption both run through one combined Probate and Juvenile Division at 426 Main Street, under Judge Given. File with the right one for your case.

## PART ONE

# Divorce and dissolution run through the Common Pleas Court.

If you are married, ending the marriage runs through the Common Pleas Court. The first real question is simple: can both spouses sign a full agreement?

DIVORCE OR DISSOLUTION	POST-DECREE MOTION	WHERE YOU FILE	RESIDENCY
\$200	\$100	Common Pleas Clerk	6 months in Ohio

## QUICK PATHFINDER

## Do you agree on everything?

If yes, dissolution may fit. If no, divorce is the safer or required path. Agreement means more than wanting the case over. It means signed terms on property, debt, support, and parenting. The deposit is the same either way.

Dissolution is built on agreement.

Both spouses file together as co-petitioners. They ask the court to approve a signed Separation Agreement. The court holds a hearing 30 to 90 days later. Both spouses must appear and confirm the agreement.

Divorce is a lawsuit.

One spouse files against the other. Use it when you do not yet agree. Use it when you cannot find your spouse, or when you need the court to decide something.

## ONE FLAT DEPOSIT

A divorce or dissolution costs \$200 to file, with or without children, plus a small \$25 court fee. There is no higher fee for cases with children, though those need extra forms. One spouse must have lived in Ohio six months.

## DISSOLUTION

# The dissolution packet, step by step.

Dissolution uses Coshocton's With Children or Without Children packet. Sign the Separation Agreement in front of a notary first. Then build the rest of the packet around it.

## BRING YOUR SIGNED DECREE TO THE HEARING

A dissolution is fully agreed, and the hearing is set 30 to 90 days out. Both spouses must appear. A Coshocton rule to remember: you bring your own signed decree to the hearing for the judge or magistrate to sign.

FORM	WHERE TO GET IT	WHAT IT'S FOR
<a href="#">Petition for Dissolution</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Coshocton dissolution packet	Both spouses sign; opens the joint case
<a href="#">Separation Agreement</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Coshocton dissolution packet	Your signed terms; notarize this first
<a href="#">Affidavits 1 &amp; 2</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Ohio Supreme Court forms	Income/expenses and property/debt
<a href="#">Parenting plan + worksheet</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Ohio Supreme Court forms	With children; the plan and support math
<a href="#">Title IV-D application</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Coshocton dissolution packet	With children; sets up support
<a href="#">Decree of Dissolution</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Ohio Supreme Court forms	Bring this signed for the court to sign

**GOOD TO KNOW****The class is paused right now**

Coshocton's co-parenting seminar rule is still on the books, but the class is not being required right now while the county finds a new provider. Confirm the current status with the Clerk when you file.

**MEDIATION**

The court offers mediation through its Family Pact program to help settle parenting and support disputes. It is never used for a domestic violence case or to decide a protection order.

## DIVORCE

# Filing a divorce when you do not agree.

Divorce is filed with the Common Pleas Clerk of Courts. Coshocton uses the Ohio Supreme Court forms, and a restraining order takes effect the moment you file.

FORM	WHERE TO GET IT	WHAT IT'S FOR
<a href="#">Complaint for Divorce</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Ohio Supreme Court forms	Starts the lawsuit; with or without children
<a href="#">Affidavit of Income &amp; Expenses</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Ohio Supreme Court forms	Your financial picture
<a href="#">Affidavit of Property &amp; Debt</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Ohio Supreme Court forms	Lists what you own and owe
<a href="#">Parenting Proceeding Affidavit</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Ohio Supreme Court forms	With children; the UCCJEA affidavit
<a href="#">Motion for Temporary Orders</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Ohio Supreme Court forms	File if you want orders during the case

## A restraining order at filing

When you file a divorce, legal separation, or annulment, an automatic mutual restraining order takes effect. No separate motion is needed. It keeps both spouses from hiding or selling marital assets while the case runs.

## WANT ORDERS DURING THE CASE?

You can ask for temporary support or a parenting schedule while the divorce is pending. These pendente lite orders are usually decided on written statements. See the next page for the timing.

## TEMPORARY ORDERS

# Getting orders while the case runs.

A divorce can take months. Temporary orders set the rules in the meantime — things like temporary support or a parenting schedule.

## The 28-day rule

Temporary orders are usually decided on written statements. If the court grants one and you want it changed, you can request an oral hearing, and that hearing is held within 28 days. A pending change does not stop support already ordered.

## Emergency custody is narrow

The court grants ex parte custody only in an extreme emergency, such as serious risk to the child or a parent fleeing with the child. You cannot open a case with an emergency request alone; a full complaint must come with it.

## ASKING A SPOUSE TO LEAVE THE HOME

A motion to make a spouse leave the marital home needs an oral hearing and an affidavit. The court grants it without notice only on a clear showing of violence or child abuse. If you or your children are in danger right now, call 911.

## CHILDREN

# Custody, parenting time, and child support.

Ohio uses specific words for custody. Coshocton County handles support through the county agency and can appoint a guardian for the children.

**SOLE CUSTODY**

## Residential parent and legal custodian

One parent is the residential parent and legal custodian. The other parent usually has parenting time. Ohio does not use the words “full” or “primary” custody.

**SHARED PARENTING**

## A shared parenting plan

Both parents share rights and duties under a written plan. Shared parenting is not the same as equal time. The schedule is whatever the plan or order says.

## Guardians ad litem

In a contested case, the court can appoint a guardian ad litem to look into the children's needs. It asks for a deposit of at least \$500 in a domestic case to cover the guardian's fees, with more billed as needed.

**CHILD SUPPORT RUNS THROUGH THE CSEA**

The Coshocton County child support agency handles support. Reach it at (740) 622-1020. Support is set under Ohio's guidelines, collected by income withholding, and paid through the state.

## THE REST OF A DIVORCE

# Spousal support, property, and other paths.

Beyond custody and child support, a divorce sorts out spousal support and divides what you own and owe.

## Spousal support

The court can order one spouse to support the other for a set time. Ohio weighs income, the length of the marriage, health, and other factors. There is no fixed formula.

## Property and debt

Ohio divides marital property and debt fairly. Fair does not always mean a 50-50 split. Property you brought into the marriage may count as separate.

## Legal separation and annulment

Both are filed in the Common Pleas Court for the same \$200 deposit. Legal separation sets terms without ending the marriage. Annulment is rare and has narrow grounds.

## A note on dividing retirement

If a divorce divides a pension or retirement account, it usually takes a separate order to split it with the plan. Getting the wording right matters, and a mistake can cost real money later, so many people use a lawyer for this step.

## AFTER THE DECREE

# Changing or enforcing a Coshocton County order.

Life changes after a case ends. Post-decree motions stay in the same Common Pleas case that issued your decree.

**POST-DECREE MOTION****\$100**

To modify or enforce an order after the decree

**REOPEN A CASE****\$100**

To bring a closed case back for a hearing

**PROTECTION ORDER****\$0**

No filing fee for the petitioner

**Modifying and enforcing**

To change custody or support, or to enforce an order, you file a post-decree motion for \$100, plus a small court fee. Support changes can also start through the county agency at (740) 622-1020.

**CONFIRM THE ALL-IN COST**

Coshocton adds small special-projects fees on top of the base deposit. Before you file, ask the Clerk at (740) 622-1456 for the all-in total so there are no surprises.

## HELP ALONG THE WAY

# Mediation, GALs, and the paused class.

Coshocton County offers ways to settle disputes. It also offers ways to give the court good information about the children.

## Mediation

The court offers mediation through its Family Pact program to help parents agree on parenting and support. It is never used for a domestic violence case or to decide a protection order.

## Guardians ad litem

The court can appoint a guardian ad litem to look into the children's needs in a contested case. A domestic case asks for a deposit of at least \$500 to cover the fees.

## The co-parenting class

The county's co-parenting seminar is paused right now while it finds a new provider, so it is not being required. It could return, so confirm the current status when you file.

NOT SURE WHERE TO START?

## Two minutes to a clear next step.

Gavvl's Find My Service quiz gives you a recommendation and your payment options. Or talk with our team about full or limited-scope help in Coshocton County.

Find My Service · [gavvl.com/find-my-service](https://gavvl.com/find-my-service)

Get started · [gavvl.com/start](https://gavvl.com/start)

Call · (844) 694-2885

Email · [support@gavvl.com](mailto:support@gavvl.com)

## PROTECTION ORDERS

# When safety comes first.

A domestic violence civil protection order (DVCPO) can order someone to stay away. It can also set temporary custody and support. Your safety drives the timeline.

FILING FEE	WHERE	EX PARTE ORDER	FINAL ORDER
\$0 to petitioner	Common Pleas Clerk	Same day	Up to 5 years

### How it works here

A protection order is filed with the Common Pleas Clerk under R.C. 3113.31. There is no fee. The court can grant a same-day ex parte order if there is immediate danger, then hold a full hearing where both sides are heard.

### Get help first

The court strongly recommends contacting First Step Family Violence Services at (740) 622-8504 before filing; they can help with the petition and safety planning. These cases are kept off the public docket for safety.

### IF YOU ARE IN DANGER NOW

If you or your children are in danger right now, call 911. A protection order is a civil court process, not an emergency response.

## PART TWO

# The Juvenile Court is for parents who were never married.

Were the parents never married? Then custody, parenting time, and child support are decided in the Juvenile Court, before Judge Given.

## Parentage comes first

In Ohio, the mother of a child born outside marriage is the only legal custodian until a court says otherwise. So a father usually has to prove he is the father first. You can do that by a signed form, through the child support agency, or by a court case.

## Filing for custody as an unmarried parent

FORM	WHERE TO GET IT	WHAT IT'S FOR
<a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domes-tic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">Complaint for Custody</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domes-tic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domes-tic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Coshocton Juvenile Division	Sets custody and parenting time
<a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domes-tic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">Complaint to Establish Paternity</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domes-tic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domes-tic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Coshocton Juvenile Division	When fatherhood is not yet established
<a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domes-tic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">Parenting Proceeding Affidavit</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domes-tic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domes-tic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Ohio Supreme Court forms	Required with a custody filing
<a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domes-tic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">Application for Child Support</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domes-tic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domes-tic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1</a>	Juvenile Court or CSEA	Sets up the support case with the agency

### COSTS AND WHERE TO FILE

A custody or paternity case costs \$135 to file in the Juvenile Division. The Probate and Juvenile Division is at 426 Main Street, (740) 622-8969. Attorneys can e-file; others file in person or by mail.

## AFTER A JUVENILE ORDER

# Changing orders and CPS cases.

Juvenile orders can change as children grow. Some cases move fast.

## Modifying a juvenile order

To change custody, parenting time, or support, you file a motion in the existing case, which costs \$135. Support changes can also start through the county agency at (740) 622-1020.

## Abuse, neglect, and dependency

These CPS cases are heard in the Juvenile Court. The court can appoint a guardian ad litem to speak for the child. To report concerns about a child's safety, contact county children services. For immediate danger, call 911.

## LEGAL CUSTODY OR ADOPTION?

Because one judge runs both Juvenile and Probate, a relative caring for a child can weigh two paths: legal custody in the Juvenile Court (\$135), which keeps the parents' rights, or a permanent kinship adoption in Probate. They are very different choices.

## PART THREE

# Adoption is handled by the Probate Court.

Stepparent and kinship adoptions go to the Probate Court, before Judge Given, who also leads the Juvenile Court. Here is the basic shape.

## THE DEPOSITS, BY TYPE

A stepparent adoption deposit is \$425, with \$245 per additional sibling. A relative adoption is usually filed as a private placement for \$600. Confirm your type and current fee with Probate at (740) 622-1837.

1

### File the petition in Probate

File the Ohio Petition for Adoption of a Minor at 426 Main Street. Add the child's birth certificate. For a stepparent, add the marriage certificate too.

2

### Address consent

The other parent usually must consent. A court can excuse that consent in limited cases, such as a year of no contact or support without good reason. A child 12 or older also consents.

3

### Complete the home study

The court usually requires a home study or assessment. A stepparent case can be simpler. Ask the Probate Court what your adoption type needs.

4

### Attend the hearing

If adoption serves the child's best interest, Judge Given signs a final decree. A new birth record can follow.

## PART FOUR

# How Gavvl Law can help in Coshocton County.

Gavvl is a modern Ohio family-law firm serving all 88 counties. We pair skilled lawyers with easy-to-use tech and clear pricing. You choose how much help you need.

**FULL REPRESENTATION**

## An attorney handles the whole case

From the first consult through final orders: strategy, every filing, all court dates, and negotiating. Best for contested, complex, or high-conflict cases. Billed as a retainer plus hourly fees.

**LIMITED-SCOPE (FLAT FEE)**

## Hire us for specific tasks

Pay a flat fee per service — drafting and filing, one hearing, advice, or document review. Best for uncontested cases and tighter budgets. Not built for high-conflict cases that need steady advocacy.

## Ways to pay

Your options depend on the service model. Limited-scope work has the widest range: pay in full, Affirm, Klarna, or PayPal Pay Later. Gavvl Direct is an in-house plan with no credit check. Financed amounts carry 19% annual interest, compounded monthly. We work out your exact payment when you enroll.

**START IN TWO MINUTES**

Take the Find My Service quiz at [gavvl.com/find-my-service](https://gavvl.com/find-my-service). You get a recommendation and your payment options. Or call (844) 694-2885. Consultations are low-cost.

## BEFORE YOU GO

# Important disclosures.

Please read these notes about how to use this guide.

**INFORMATION, NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

This guide explains how things generally work in Coshocton County, but it cannot account for the facts of your case. Reading it, downloading it, or contacting Gavvl Law does not make you a client or create an attorney-client relationship. Only a signed engagement agreement does that. For advice about your own situation, talk with a licensed Ohio attorney.

**FEES AND PROCEDURES CHANGE**

The court information in this guide was verified as of June 15, 2026 from official court sources. Court fees, forms, and procedures change. Always confirm current fees and requirements with the Coshocton County courts before you file.

**AWARDS AND REVIEWS**

Any awards, ratings, and reviews reflect the experiences of other clients and the opinions of rating organizations. They are not a guarantee or prediction of the outcome of your case. Every case is different.

**JURISDICTION AND RESPONSIBILITY**

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