

## Family Law in Geauga County

A plain-language overview of where to file, the courts that hear family-law cases, and the local resources available to you — prepared by Gavvl Law for people without a legal background.

*Verified 2026-06-21. Always confirm current fees and forms with the Clerk before you file.*

### Where to File in Geauga County

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Geauga County's family-law courts sit in Chardon. Married couples file divorce, dissolution, legal separation, and annulment cases in the court below. Never-married parents file parentage, custody, and support cases in the Juvenile court.

#### Divorce / Domestic Relations

**Court:** Geauga County Court of Common Pleas, General Division (Domestic Relations)

**Address:** 100 Short Court Street, Chardon, OH 44024

**Phone:** (440) 279-1960

**Hours:** Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (closed legal holidays)

**Website:** <https://courts.geauga.oh.gov/general-division/domestic-relations/>

#### Parentage / Custody / Support (Juvenile)

**Court:** Geauga County Court of Common Pleas, Probate & Juvenile Divisions

**Address:** Courthouse Annex, 231 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Chardon, OH 44024

**Phone:** (440) 226-4446

**Hours:** Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (closed legal holidays)

**Website:** <https://geaugapjcourt.org/>

### What's Different About Geauga County

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#### Everything e-files, pay by PayPal

Geauga uses mandatory e-filing for Common Pleas Domestic Relations cases, and deposits are paid online through PayPal checkout — guest checkout is available, so you don't need a PayPal account. The Court may waive the deposit on a poverty/indigency affidavit for good cause.

*Source: Geauga County Clerk of Courts*

#### Child support runs through the state, not the court

Support payments are processed through Ohio Child Support Payment Central (CSPC), not the local court (Local Rule 8(C)). The county IV-D agency, Geauga County Child Support Enforcement at Job & Family Services ((440) 285-9141), establishes, calculates, collects, and enforces support.

*Source: Geauga County General Division (Local Rule 8(C))*

#### No automatic parenting class — but confirm

Unlike many Ohio counties, Geauga's General Division local rules don't require a parenting-education seminar before a divorce or custody hearing. A class can still be added by a magistrate's order or in the Juvenile Division, so confirm with the DR magistrate's office ((440) 279-1956/1957) or Juvenile Court ((440) 226-4446) before assuming none applies.

*Source: Geauga County General Division Local Rules*

## Free & Local Resources

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### **Geauga County Clerk of Courts (files Common Pleas / Domestic Relations cases)**

100 Short Court Street, Chardon, OH 44024; (440) 279-1960. Clerk Sheila M. Bevington files all divorce, dissolution, legal separation, and annulment cases, posts the filing-fee schedule, and confirms current deposits. Geauga uses mandatory e-filing for Common Pleas cases, with payment by PayPal checkout (guest checkout available). Forms: <https://courts.geauga.oh.gov/forms/>.

### **Geauga County Probate & Juvenile Court**

Courthouse Annex, 231 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Chardon, OH 44024; (440) 226-4446 (<https://geaugapjcourt.org/>). The combined Probate & Juvenile Court (Judge Timothy J. Grendell) hears unmarried-parent parentage, custody, support, and parenting-time cases. Self-represented filers can use the Juvenile Help Center: <https://geaugapjcourt.org/help-center/>.

### **Geauga County Child Support Enforcement (GCCSED)**

Housed at Geauga County Job & Family Services, 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Chardon, OH 44024; (440) 285-9141 (<https://www.geaugajfs.org/>). The county IV-D agency establishes, calculates, collects, and enforces child support. Support payments are processed through Ohio Child Support Payment Central (CSPC), not the local court (Local Rule 8(C)).

### **Geauga County CASA / Court Appointed Special Advocates**

<https://www.geaugacountycasa.org/>. Trained volunteer advocates appointed in abuse, neglect, and dependency cases to represent the child's best interest. The Probate & Juvenile Court may also appoint a Guardian ad Litem in contested custody matters.

### **General Division Mediation Program**

Mediation Coordinator (440) 279-1996. The General Division offers mediation to help divorcing and post-decree parents resolve parenting and property disputes without a contested hearing. Ask the Court or your attorney whether your case qualifies.

## Sources

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- Geauga County Court of Common Pleas, General Division (Domestic Relations) — Local Rules & Forms
- Geauga County Clerk of Courts — Filing Fees & Mandatory E-Filing
- Geauga County Probate & Juvenile Court — Forms & Help Center
- Ohio Supreme Court — Standard Domestic Relations forms

## Talk to Gavvl Law

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This guide is general information, not legal advice. Every case is different. For help with a Geauga County family-law matter, call (844) 694-2885 or visit [gavvl.com](http://gavvl.com).











