

## PLAIN-ENGLISH GUIDE

# Family Law in Logan County

A plain-English map to divorce, dissolution, custody, support, protection orders, and adoption in Logan County: which part of the court handles your issue, what to file, what it costs, and when to ask for help.

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- 01** Good news: Logan County keeps family law under one roof — a single Family Court in Bellefontaine.

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  - 02** Tell dissolution, divorce, juvenile custody, and adoption apart.

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  - 03** See the exact forms, fees, deadlines, and filing steps that trip people up at 101 S. Main Street.

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  - 04** Pick a next step that fits your situation, budget, and timeline.

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## START HERE

# Use this guide like a map, not a law textbook.

Family-law problems get easier the moment you can name the path, the paperwork, and your next decision. Logan County makes the first part easy: one Family Court handles all of it, in three sections.

01

## Married, or ending a marriage?

Divorce, dissolution, legal separation, and annulment are the Domestic Relations section of the Family Court ((937) 292-4043).

02

## Parents who were never married?

Custody, parenting time, parentage, and support for unmarried parents are the Juvenile section ((937) 599-7245).

03

## Adopting a stepchild or relative?

Adoption is the Probate section of the same Family Court ((937) 599-7252).

## READ THIS FIRST

This guide is information, not legal advice.

It explains how things generally work in Logan County, but it can't account for the facts of your situation. 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 case, talk with a licensed Ohio attorney.

## LOGAN COUNTY'S FAMILY COURT

# One court, one address, three sections.

Unlike most counties, Logan County runs a single Family Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas for all family law — at 101 S. Main Street, Bellefontaine. What changes is which section handles your case.

SECTION	WHAT IT HANDLES	DEPARTMENT LINE
Domestic Relations married couples	Divorce, dissolution, legal separation, annulment, spousal support, and protection orders	(937) 292-4043
Juvenile unmarried parents	Parentage, custody, parenting time, and support for unmarried parents; non-parent custody; abuse / neglect / dependency	(937) 599-7245
Probate	Stepparent and kinship adoption, name change, guardianship, marriage licenses	(937) 599-7252
General Division not family law	General civil and criminal cases — does not hear family law	Main line (937) 599-7249

#### THE LOGAN COUNTY ADVANTAGE

You won't be bounced between courthouses.

The Family Court's judges (Kim Kellogg-Martin and Natasha R. Kennedy) and Magistrate Sarah J. Warren handle Domestic Relations, Juvenile, and Probate from the same office at 101 S. Main Street, Bellefontaine. Hearings are held at the Carnegie Building (140 N. Main) or the County Annex. Office hours are Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LOGAN COUNTY'S FAMILY COURT

# Child support, child safety, and filing notes.

A few things to know before you file, plus the two numbers that matter most for children.

**MONEY FOR THE KIDS**

**Child support starts with one form**

Logan County requires an Application for Child Support Services in any case involving children — it opens the support file. The statewide calculator estimates the guideline number, and the court uses a child-support worksheet.

- Required in every case with children
- Linked on the next pages and in the forms tables

**HOW LOGAN COUNTY TAKES FILINGS**

Email for divorce papers; five copies for protection orders.

Domestic Relations and civil documents may be e-filed by email to the Clerk (no electronic signatures — actual signatures are required; filed by 4:15 p.m. to be stamped that day). Protection orders are filed in person, and you bring five copies. Adoption cannot be filed by fax.

**IF A CHILD MAY BE UNSAFE**

**Reporting abuse or neglect**

Call Logan County Children Services at (937) 599-7290 to report — reports are confidential. If a child is in immediate danger, call 911. (Confirm the agency's after-hours number when you call.)

Divorce / dissolution fee	\$400
Re-open / post-decree DR motion	\$150
Juvenile filing deposit	confirm with the court
Fee too high?	file an Affidavit of Indigency

## PART ONE

# Domestic Relations: the married-couple section.

If you are married and ending it, the Domestic Relations section of the Family Court handles your case. It also issues protection orders. This part walks through each path in the order most people meet them.

SECTION	WHERE	PHONE	FILES WITH
Domestic Relations	101 S. Main St.	(937) 292-4043	Clerk of Courts

**TWO HABITS FOR EVERY DR FILING**

The income affidavit, and the parenting class.

Logan County requires its Affidavit of Income and Expenses (Form DR-10) with all initial pleadings — attach income proof (two of: your latest tax return, latest W-2, or one month of pay stubs). And in any case with children, both parents must complete the Common Ground Parenting Program. Both are built into the sections below.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

# Dissolution: the fully agreed way to end a marriage.

A dissolution is the no-fault path for couples who agree on everything. You both sign a full agreement, file a joint petition, and appear together at a short hearing. No one is served, and there are no fault grounds to prove.

SECTION	FILING FEE	HEARING	SERVICE
Domestic Relations	\$400	30–90 days	None — joint filing

**This path may fit if...**

- You both agree the marriage should end.
- Property, debt, support, and parenting are already settled in writing.
- You will both sign the paperwork and attend the final hearing.

**Watch the agreement, not just the forms.**  
 A clean-looking packet can still cause years of trouble if retirement, taxes, the house, debt, insurance, or parenting terms are vague. The court can approve terms that are clear enough to enforce, even when they are not good terms for you.

Core filing	Joint Petition (SCOO SF 17)
Agreement	Separation Agreement (SF 19)
Decree	Decree of Dissolution (SF 18)
If minor children	Parenting plan + support worksheet
Final step	Short hearing where you both confirm the deal

**A REAL LOGAN COUNTY RULE**  
 Both spouses take the parenting class.  
 For a dissolution with minor children, both spouses must complete the Common Ground Parenting Program, and you'll file the Application for Child Support Services. The hearing is set 30 to 90 days after filing, and both of you attend.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

# Divorce: are you starting it, or responding to it?

Divorce does not always mean a trial. It means one spouse files, the other is served, and the court sets a structure. Your very first move depends on which side of that you are on.

<p><b>A</b> You are starting the divorce</p> <p>You prepare the Complaint for Divorce on the Ohio Supreme Court forms, plus Logan's required Affidavit of Income and Expenses (DR-10) and, with children, a Child Custody Affidavit and support worksheet. You may also ask for an ex parte mutual restraining order to keep things stable.</p>	<p><b>B</b> You were served with divorce papers</p> <p>Read the first page for your answer deadline. You generally have 28 days from service to file an Answer (and a Counterclaim if you want your own requests). Ohio's uniform Answer and Counterclaim forms are the ones Logan County uses.</p>
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SECTION	FEE	ANSWER DEADLINE	RESIDENCY
Domestic Relations	\$400	28 days	6 months in Ohio

**TWO WORDS PEOPLE MIX UP**

“Uncontested” divorce is not a dissolution.

An uncontested divorce is still a divorce one spouse files — it just isn't fought, often because the other spouse can't be found or doesn't respond, so the court proceeds on your evidence. A dissolution is a fully agreed joint filing with no one served. If you can't locate your spouse, you can serve by publication through the Daily Court Reporter (publication is required even in fee-waived cases).

## DOMESTIC RELATIONS

# What do I fill out, and where do I get it?

Logan County points you to the Ohio Supreme Court uniform forms for the core divorce paperwork, plus a few of its own local forms. Any case with children needs the Application for Child Support Services.

FORM (TAP TO OPEN)	WHERE TO GET IT	WHAT IT'S FOR
<a href="#">Uniform Domestic Relations Forms — Divorce set</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile/2">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile/2</a>	Ohio Supreme Court (uniform forms)	Complaint for Divorce with or without children, Answer, Counterclaim
<a href="#">Affidavit of Income and Expenses (Form DR-10)</a> <a href="https://www.logancountyohio.gov/domestic-relations-forms.html">https://www.logancountyohio.gov/domestic-relations-forms.html</a>	Logan County DR (or DR Dept, 937-292-4043)	Required with all initial pleadings — attach income proof
<p>⚠ Heads up: Logan County requires two of: your latest tax return, latest W-2, or one month of pay stubs. The direct form link isn't posted online — get it from the Domestic Relations Department.</p>		
<a href="#">Application for Child Support Services</a> <a href="https://www.logancountyohio.gov/uploads/1/4/9/5/149562150/dr_20app_20for_20child_20support_203-6-18_201803061519385847.pdf">https://www.logancountyohio.gov/uploads/1/4/9/5/149562150/dr_20app_20for_20child_20support_203-6-18_201803061519385847.pdf</a>	Logan County DR	Required in any case involving children; opens the support file
<a href="#">Logan County Visitation Guidelines (Form DR-01)</a> <a href="https://www.logancountyohio.gov/uploads/1/4/9/5/149562150/dr_20visitation_20guidelines_201-19-18_201801191251586170.pdf">https://www.logancountyohio.gov/uploads/1/4/9/5/149562150/dr_20visitation_20guidelines_201-19-18_201801191251586170.pdf</a>	Logan County DR	The court's default parenting-time schedule (a scanned PDF)
<a href="#">Affidavit of Indigency / Financial Disclosure</a> <a href="https://www.logancountyohio.gov/uploads/1/4/9/5/149562150/affidavit_20of_20indigency_20w_20guidelines_203-23-21_202103231349371886.pdf">https://www.logancountyohio.gov/uploads/1/4/9/5/149562150/affidavit_20of_20indigency_20w_20guidelines_203-23-21_202103231349371886.pdf</a>	Logan County DR	Ask the court to waive the filing deposit
<a href="#">Child Support Computation Worksheet</a> <a href="https://ohiochildsupportcalculator.ohio.gov/home.html">https://ohiochildsupportcalculator.ohio.gov/home.html</a>	Ohio child-support calculator	Builds the guideline support number

## DOMESTIC RELATIONS

# What does a Logan County divorce look like?

Most divorces settle. The steps below are the path the court sets in motion once you file, whether or not you ever reach a trial.

**WHEN DIVORCE IS THE RIGHT TOOL**  
 You need a deadline, a temporary order, information, or a judge's decision.  
 Divorce is often the necessary path when a spouse won't sign, money is unclear, parenting time is disputed, or someone needs the court to act before everything is settled.

Answer deadline	28 days after service
Temp-orders hearing	within 14 days of filing
Residency	6 months in Ohio
Support entry	Form DR.07 with health insurance

**1** **File and pay (or ask to waive the fee)**  
 File the complaint with the DR-10 income affidavit and pay the \$400 deposit, or file the Affidavit of Indigency.

**2** **Restraining order, if you need one**  
 Either spouse can ask for an ex parte mutual temporary restraining order with a supporting affidavit (DR 1.11) to keep things stable.

**3** **Serve your spouse**  
 Service is by certified mail, personal service, or — if an address is unknown — publication through the Daily Court Reporter.

**4** **Temporary orders within 14 days**  
 If you ask for temporary parenting, support, or use of the home, the court holds a temporary-orders hearing within 14 days of filing (DR 5.02).

**5** **Parenting class, then settle or go to hearing**  
 With children, both parents finish the Common Ground Parenting Program. Many cases settle by written agreement; if not, a judge or magistrate decides.

## DOMESTIC RELATIONS

# Legal separation and annulment: the other two doors.

Not every case is a divorce. Two less-common paths solve different problems, and both are filed in the Domestic Relations section the same way, with the \$400 deposit.

## Legal separation (R.C. 3105.17)

A court divides property, sets support, and orders parenting — but you stay legally married. People choose it for religious, insurance, or personal reasons. You remain married, so a later divorce or dissolution is needed to remarry.

## Annulment (R.C. 3105.31)

A court declares a marriage was never valid on a specific legal ground — such as bigamy, being underage without consent, fraud, or incapacity. The grounds are narrow and fact-specific; a short or unhappy marriage is not, by itself, a ground.

### DON'T CONFUSE TWO SIMILAR TERMS

“Legal separation” is a status; a “Separation Agreement” is a document.

Legal separation is a court case that leaves you married. A Separation Agreement is the signed settlement used in a dissolution and in agreed cases. Both legal separation and annulment use the Ohio uniform forms, the DR-10 income affidavit, and — with children — the Common Ground Parenting Program.

## DOMESTIC RELATIONS

# Temporary orders and emergencies while you wait.

A case can take months. Temporary orders set the rules for support, the home, and the children in the meantime. Logan County's Local Rule 5 sets a clear, fast procedure.

## Temporary orders (Civ.R. 75(N))

File a Motion for Temporary Orders with a supporting affidavit and your DR-10 income affidavit. If you ask for them, the court sets a temporary-orders hearing within 14 days of filing (DR 5.02). For genuine emergencies, the court can grant ex parte (same-day) relief, followed by that prompt hearing.

## WHEN A CHILD IS IN DANGER

### Same-day ex parte relief.

On a motion supported by affidavit, the person filing for divorce can get an ex parte hearing the same day the petition is filed, and for good cause the court can enter temporary orders for parenting, support, and use of the home or vehicle (DR 5.01).

## A REAL LOGAN COUNTY RULE

### Temporary residential parent (DR 3.01).

If parents are no longer in the same household when the case is filed, the court can name a temporary residential parent — the parent who had actual custody just before filing, or the primary caretaker if they shared it.

### A protection order can also help fast.

If the danger involves domestic violence, a protection order can provide immediate ex parte protection, including temporary parenting and support terms (next pages).

## DOMESTIC RELATIONS

# Objections and appeals: review, not a redo.

If a magistrate decides your case, or a judge enters a final order you disagree with, there are short deadlines to ask for review. Missing them usually ends the issue.

## FIRST LEVEL

## Objecting to a magistrate's decision

A magistrate handles many Family Court matters. You generally have 14 days to file written objections asking a judge to review the decision. In the Probate section, you must first request findings of fact and conclusions of law (Civ.R. 52) before objecting or appealing. Review is not a fresh trial.

### Then: appeal to the Court of Appeals

To appeal a final judgment, you generally have 30 days to file a notice of appeal (App.R. 4). An appeal reviews the record for legal error; you do not get to re-argue the facts or add new evidence.

### Deadlines run from the entry.

The clock starts when the decision or judgment is filed. If you think something went wrong, move quickly — these windows do not pause while you decide.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

# Protection orders when you are not safe.

A Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order (R.C. 3113.31) is a civil order that can require someone to stay away, give you exclusive use of the home, and set temporary parenting and support terms. There is never a filing fee.

### How it works

File a petition on the Ohio Supreme Court DV forms in the Family Court — and bring five copies (Logan County Local Rule 7.01). If you file early enough in the day, the ex parte hearing is held that same day; if it's too late, the next business day. A full hearing follows, and a final order can last up to five years.

### A protection order stands on its own.

It is separate from any divorce or custody case, though it can include temporary parenting and support terms. Mediation is never used in place of a protection-order proceeding. Once issued, the order goes into the law-enforcement database (NCIC), and violating it is a crime.

### BRING WHAT HELPS

#### Identification and evidence.

Bring photo ID and any evidence — photos, messages, or prior reports. The Clerk provides the standard forms and an explanation of the procedure on request.

Filing fee	none, ever
Bring	five copies + ID
Ex parte hearing	same or next business day
Final order	up to 5 years

FORM (TAP TO OPEN)	WHERE TO GET IT	WHAT IT'S FOR
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[Petition for a Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order](#)

<https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/protection-order/2>

Ohio Supreme Court (DV Task Force forms)

Asks the court to order a family or household member to stay away

⚠ Heads up: No filing fee. Bring five copies to the Clerk; the Clerk provides the forms and explains the procedure on request.

[Petition for a Dating Violence Protection Order](#)

<https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/protection-order/2>

Ohio Supreme Court (DV Task Force forms)

For protection from a person in a dating relationship

NOT SURE WHICH PATH IS YOURS?

Take the 2-minute quiz — it routes you to the right starting point.

Dissolution, divorce, a custody case, or just a consult? Gavvl's Find My Service quiz gives a personalized recommendation in about two minutes. [Take the quiz](https://gavvl.com/find-my-service) (https://gavvl.com/find-my-service) · Call (844) 694-2885.

## DOMESTIC RELATIONS

# Dividing property, and protecting your case.

Ohio divides marital property and debt equitably — fairly, which is not always equally. A few day-to-day habits protect you while any of the paths above plays out.

## Marital vs. separate

Marital property and debt is generally what was acquired during the marriage; separate property includes pre-marriage assets, gifts, and inheritances kept separate. Timing and tracing matter. Retirement accounts are often divided by a special order (a QDRO or DOPO).

## Do

- Keep communication in writing, and save it.
- Gather financial records — the DR-10 affidavit asks for income proof.
- Put the children's needs first, and your own second.

## Don't

- Don't post about your case or your spouse online.
- Don't use the children as messengers.
- Don't drain accounts or cancel insurance — it can violate the restraining order.

## PART TWO

# Juvenile: when parents were never married.

Custody, parenting time, parentage, and support for unmarried parents are decided by the Juvenile section of the Family Court — same building, same judges, different section and rules.

SECTION	WHERE	PHONE	FILING DEPOSIT
Juvenile	101 S. Main St.	(937) 599-7245	confirm with court

#### WHY A SEPARATE SECTION

Unmarried-parent custody is a Juvenile matter.

By Ohio law (R.C. 2151.23), custody, parenting time, and support for children of unmarried parents are decided in Juvenile, not Domestic Relations. A father generally establishes parentage first, then the court allocates custody and sets support.

## JUVENILE

# Unmarried parents: paternity first, then custody.

This is the most common Juvenile family-law case. It happens in two steps, and a child-support application is part of it from the start.

## Step one: establish parentage

Parentage is the legal parent-child link (R.C. 3111). It can be set by an Acknowledgment of Paternity, through the child-support agency, or by a court parentage case; genetic testing may be ordered. Establishing parentage opens support — it does not by itself decide custody.

## Step two: ask for custody

Once parentage is set, a parent asks the court to allocate parental rights as sole custody (one residential parent and legal custodian) or shared parenting (both parents under a plan), to set parenting time, and to order support. Ohio has no “primary” or “joint” custody.

### DON'T FORGET THIS FORM

The child-support application is required.

Any Logan County case involving children requires an Application for Child Support Services. The default parenting-time schedule, unless you agree on something else, is the Logan County Visitation Guidelines.

## JUVENILE

# Forms for an unmarried-parent case.

Logan County uses the Ohio Supreme Court uniform Juvenile forms for these cases, plus the local child-support application and visitation guidelines.

FORM (TAP TO OPEN)	WHERE TO GET IT	WHAT IT'S FOR
<a href="#">Uniform Juvenile Forms — Parentage &amp; Custody</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile/2">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile/2</a>	Ohio Supreme Court (uniform forms)	Establish parentage and ask the court to allocate custody and support
<a href="#">Application for Child Support Services</a> <a href="https://www.logancountyohio.gov/uploads/1/4/9/5/149562150/dr_20app_20for_20child_20support_203-6-18_201803061519385847.pdf">https://www.logancountyohio.gov/uploads/1/4/9/5/149562150/dr_20app_20for_20child_20support_203-6-18_201803061519385847.pdf</a>	Logan County (DR / Juvenile)	Required in any case involving children
<a href="#">Logan County Visitation Guidelines (Form DR-01)</a> <a href="https://www.logancountyohio.gov/uploads/1/4/9/5/149562150/dr_20visitation_20guidelines_201-19-18_201801191251586170.pdf">https://www.logancountyohio.gov/uploads/1/4/9/5/149562150/dr_20visitation_20guidelines_201-19-18_201801191251586170.pdf</a>	Logan County	The default parenting-time schedule (a scanned PDF)
<a href="#">Child Support Computation Worksheet</a> <a href="https://ohiochildsupportcalculator.ohio.gov/home.html">https://ohiochildsupportcalculator.ohio.gov/home.html</a>	Ohio child-support calculator	Builds the guideline support number
<a href="#">Juvenile forms page</a> <a href="https://www.logancountyohio.gov/forms.html">https://www.logancountyohio.gov/forms.html</a>	Logan County Juvenile	The court's hub for Juvenile-section forms

⚠ Heads up: The Juvenile filing deposit is not published online — confirm the current amount with the Juvenile Department, (937) 599-7245.

## JUVENILE

# Parenting time and grandparent companionship.

“Parenting time” is the schedule a parent has with a child. “Companionship” is the separate, narrower time a grandparent or relative may be granted. They are not the same thing.

## The default schedule

Unless parents agree otherwise, the court uses the Logan County Visitation Guidelines (the Standard Guidelines on Parenting Time, Form DR-01). Because the posted version is a scanned document, read it directly for holiday rotation, distance rules, and exchange logistics — or confirm the current specifics with the court.

## Grandparent and relative companionship

Non-parents do not have automatic rights. A grandparent or relative may seek companionship when a parent has died (R.C. 3109.11) or the child was born to an unmarried mother (R.C. 3109.12). The court weighs the child's best interest and gives weight to a fit parent's wishes.

## A boundary worth knowing.

If the parents' rights were already set in a Logan County divorce, parenting-time changes belong in that Domestic Relations case, not Juvenile.

## SAME COURT, SAME BUILDING

Parents and non-parents file here.

Both parenting-time and companionship requests for unmarried-parent families are filed in the Juvenile section, using the Ohio uniform forms.

## JUVENILE

# When a grandparent or relative is raising the child.

A relative or other non-parent can ask the Juvenile section for legal custody of a child (R.C. 2151.23). It gives decision-making authority and physical care, while parents keep certain residual rights. It is not adoption.

## Legal custody vs. the alternatives

Legal custody to a non-parent leaves parents with residual rights (including possible parenting time and a support obligation) and can be changed later. Adoption permanently ends parental rights (Probate), and guardianship is a separate Probate matter. For short-term needs, Ohio offers a Grandparent Power of Attorney and a Caretaker Authorization Affidavit.

## How it works

File a complaint for legal custody to a non-parent on the Ohio uniform forms; serve the parents and any necessary parties. The court may appoint a Guardian ad Litem (often a CASA of Logan County volunteer) and decides on the child's best interest.

## A school-only note.

Logan County's Probate court will not create a guardianship for school or medical purposes only (Probate Local Rule 66.1). Custody for school purposes is handled in the Juvenile or Domestic Relations section.

## SHORT-OF-COURT TOOLS

### POA and caretaker affidavit.

For school and medical authority without a full custody case, the Grandparent Power of Attorney and Caretaker Authorization Affidavit (R.C. 3109.51) are faster, revocable options.

## JUVENILE

# Child support, and changing a Juvenile order.

Ohio builds child support from both parents' incomes, and a Juvenile order can be changed when life changes. Modifications stay in the Juvenile case that made the original order.

## How support is built

Ohio uses an income-shares model: both parents' incomes, work-related child care, health-insurance cost, and the number of children go into a statewide worksheet. About 90 or more overnights a year can adjust the number. A child-support application opens the file in any case with children.

## Changing an order

Custody changes need a real change in circumstances plus the child's best interest (R.C. 3109.04(E)); a motion must state the specific change or the court can dismiss it.

Parenting-time changes use the best-interest standard; support changes on a financial change (the child-support agency can also review it).

## RUN YOUR OWN NUMBERS FIRST

### Estimate before you negotiate.

Gavvl Law has a free Ohio child-support estimator you can use before any filing or hearing: [gavvl.com/child-support-calculator](https://gavvl.com/child-support-calculator)

(<https://gavvl.com/child-support-calculator>).

## School placement isn't a custody change.

Changing a child's school district is decided under R.C. 3109.04(E) but is not, by itself, a change of legal custody.

## JUVENILE

# When Children Services is involved.

When a child may be abused, neglected, or dependent, Logan County Children Services investigates and, if needed, the Juvenile section oversees the case. The process protects the child while working toward a safe, permanent home.

## The stages, in plain order

1. A report comes in; the agency investigates.
2. If a child is removed, a shelter-care hearing happens quickly.
3. Adjudication: the court decides if the child is abused, neglected, or dependent.
4. Disposition: the court sets placement and a case plan.
5. Reviews and permanency hearings follow until there is a lasting outcome.

You may have a lawyer; the child has a GAL.

If you qualify financially, the court appoints counsel for a parent, and a Guardian ad Litem (often a CASA of Logan County volunteer) represents the child's best interest.

## REPORT FIRST IF A CHILD IS AT RISK

### Who to call.

Logan County Children Services: (937) 599-7290 (confidential). Emergency: 911.  
Confirm the after-hours number when you call.

THESE CASES ARE HARD – YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE THEM ALONE

## Support exists for the difficult parts.

If there is violence, instability, or a child-welfare case in the mix, the court appoints counsel for those who qualify, protection orders cost nothing to file, and the resources on the disclosures page are there for a reason.

## PART THREE

# Probate: stepparent and kinship adoption.

Adoption permanently makes an adult the legal parent of a child. In Logan County it is the Probate section of the Family Court — same office as Domestic Relations and Juvenile.

SECTION	WHERE	PHONE	ASSESSOR (STEPPARENT)
Probate	101 S. Main St.	(937) 599-7252	\$300 per home

**TWO TRUTHS ABOUT ADOPTION**

It is permanent, and it is not the same as custody.

Custody arranges care and can be changed; adoption permanently ends one legal parent relationship and creates another. A home study by a court-appointed assessor is required (the stepparent assessor fee is \$300 per home), and adoption cannot be filed by fax. The deposit depends on whether notice by publication is needed — confirm the current amount with the Probate Department.

## PROBATE

# What a Logan County adoption involves.

The Probate section uses the Ohio standard adoption forms. A few local rules shape the timeline — especially around birth certificates, the home study, and a registry search.

**PLAN AROUND THESE LOCAL RULES****Three timing traps.**

A birth certificate obtained within 6 months of filing; a home study current within one year; and a Putative Father Registry search on every adoption. Build these in from the start — and remember adoption can't be filed by fax.

**A MONEY NOTE****Confirm the deposit.**

Two of the court's rules state different adoption deposits, so confirm the current amount with the Probate Department, (937) 599-7252. The stepparent home-study assessor fee is \$300 per home.

**1****File the petition with a recent birth certificate**

File the Petition for Adoption on the Ohio probate forms. Logan County requires the child's birth certificate to be obtained within 6 months of filing (Local Rule 75.4).

**2****Consent or its exceptions**

Each living parent generally must consent (R.C. 3107.06) unless consent is excused (R.C. 3107.07) — for example, a year of unjustified failure to support or communicate with the child.

**3****Affidavit of Support (stepparent)**

In a stepparent adoption, the natural parent files an affidavit affirming they notified any child-support agency with an active support order (Local Rule 75.2).

**4****Home study and registry search**

A home study by a court-appointed assessor, current within one year, is required (\$300 per home for a stepparent adoption). The Putative Father Registry is searched on all adoptions unless a legal father has been court-determined (Local Rule 75.4).

**5****Final hearing**

The child to be adopted must be present unless the judge excuses it (Local Rule 75.1(b)). The court enters the final decree, and a new birth record is prepared.

FORM (TAP TO OPEN)	WHERE TO GET IT	WHAT IT'S FOR
<a href="#">Ohio Supreme Court probate adoption forms (18.x / 19.x)</a> <a href="https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/probate/5">https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/probate/5</a>	Ohio Supreme Court (probate forms)	The standardized adoption petition, consent, and decree forms Logan uses
<a href="#">Logan County Probate forms page</a> <a href="https://www.logancountyohio.gov/probate-forms.html">https://www.logancountyohio.gov/probate-forms.html</a>	Logan County Probate	The court's hub for probate and adoption forms
<p>△ Heads up: Logan-local forms such as the Affidavit of Support (Adoption) come from the Probate Department; confirm the current adoption deposit there, (937) 599-7252.</p>		
<a href="#">Child Support Computation Worksheet (if support is affected)</a> <a href="https://ohiochildsupportcalculator.ohio.gov/home.html">https://ohiochildsupportcalculator.ohio.gov/home.html</a>	Ohio child-support calculator	Used where an adoption changes a support obligation

#### THINKING ABOUT AN ADOPTION OR A CUSTODY CHANGE?

Talk it through before you file.

Adoption and custody cases turn on consent, notice, and timing — the kinds of details where early advice saves months. Gavvl's quiz points you to the right service in about two minutes. [Take the quiz](#)

(<https://gavvl.com/find-my-service>) · Call (844) 694-2885.

## PART FOUR

# How Gavvl Law can help.

This guide gave you the map. If you'd like a hand from here, here is what working with Gavvl looks like — and the two ways we usually help.

## Limited-scope (flat fee)

You handle parts of your own case and hire us for specific tasks at a flat, agreed price — reviewing a Separation Agreement, preparing a filing packet, coaching you for a hearing, or drafting a parenting plan. Predictable cost, right-sized help.

## Full representation

We handle the whole matter — strategy, filings, temporary orders, negotiation, and hearings — on a retainer plus hourly basis. Best when a case is contested, complex, or moving fast and you want someone carrying it.

## Divorce & dissolution

Strategy, settlement terms, filing packets, temporary orders, and final hearings.

## Custody & parenting

Unmarried-parent and married cases, shared parenting plans, schedules, and modifications.

## Child support

Calculations, income documentation, deviations, modifications, and enforcement.

## Adoption

Stepparent and kinship adoption planning, consent review, and packet preparation.

## PART FOUR

# Ways to pay, and how to start.

The options depend on the service model, because Ohio trust-accounting rules treat retainers differently from flat fees. Exact amounts are calculated when you enroll.

**RETAINER + HOURLY****Full representation**

Pay in full by secure card (Confido Legal). Affirm financing is available — monthly payments with a soft credit check that doesn't affect your score.

**FLAT FEE****Limited-scope**

Pay in full by card (Confido Legal). Affirm, Klarna, or PayPal Pay Later. Or Gavvl Direct — our in-house plan with no credit check.

**NO CREDIT CHECK****Gavvl Direct**

Start with 60% down and finance the rest, or finance the full fee once 60% is paid. Schedules of 18 weekly, 8 bi-weekly, or 4 monthly payments. The financed amount carries 19% annual interest, compounded monthly.

**NOT SURE WHICH PATH FITS?**

The 2-minute quiz gives a personalized recommendation.

Find My Service asks a few questions and suggests a service and financing option. [Take the quiz](#)

(<https://gavvl.com/find-my-service>) · [Start here](#) (<https://gavvl.com/start>) · (844) 694-2885 · [support@gavvl.com](mailto:support@gavvl.com).

Consultations are low-cost.

**WHY FAMILIES CHOOSE GAVVL**

A 4.8+ average across 90+ verified Google reviews, recognized by Best Lawyers as a “Firm to Watch” (2026), with 50+ years of combined family-law experience across all 88 Ohio counties. (See the disclosures page — awards and ratings are not a prediction about your case.)

## IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

# The fine print, in plain English.

Please read this before relying on anything in this guide.

## Information, not legal advice.

This guide explains how things generally work in Logan County, but it can't account for your situation. Reading, downloading, or contacting Gavvl Law does not create an attorney-client relationship — only a signed engagement agreement does. For advice about your own case, talk with a licensed Ohio attorney.

## About awards and reviews.

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

## Fees and procedures change.

Court fees, forms, and procedures change, and a few Logan County deposits (some Juvenile and adoption fees) aren't published online. The information was verified as of June 17, 2026 from official court sources. Always confirm current fees with the Family Court before you file.

## Jurisdiction and responsibility.

Gavvl Law attorneys are licensed to practice law in Ohio. This guide describes Ohio law and Logan County procedure only. Advertising material, Gavvl Law LLC. Attorney responsible for this content: Stephanie Green, Esq., Managing Partner. Privacy policy:

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READY WHEN YOU ARE.

## Take the 2-minute quiz or talk with our team.

We'll help you find the right path and the level of help that fits.

(844) 694-2885

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[gavvl.com/find-my-service](https://gavvl.com/find-my-service)

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