

PLAIN-ENGLISH GUIDE

Family Law in Perry County

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

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- 01** Find the right Perry County court before you fill out a single form.

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

 - 03** See the exact forms, fees, deadlines, and filing steps that trip people up in New Lexington — including the support application the Clerk won't file without.

 - 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 court, the paperwork, and your next decision. Perry County has no separate divorce court — so step one is knowing which of its courts is yours.

01

Married, or ending a marriage?

Divorce, dissolution, legal separation, annulment, and protection orders are the Common Pleas Court, General Division (Judge Tina M. Boyer), filed with the Clerk of Courts.

02

Parents who were never married?

Custody, parenting time, parentage, and support for unmarried parents are the Probate & Juvenile Court (Judge Luann Cooperrider).

03

Adopting a stepchild or relative?

Adoption is also the Probate & Juvenile Court (Judge Cooperrider).

READ THIS FIRST

This guide is information, not legal advice.

It explains how things generally work in Perry 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.

PERRY COUNTY COURTS

No separate divorce court — here's the map.

Perry County family law is split between two courts at 105 N. Main Street, New Lexington. There's no standalone domestic-relations court; the trick is matching your case to the right division.

YOUR MATTER	COURT	WHERE / CONTACT
Divorce, dissolution, legal separation, annulment, protection orders	Common Pleas, General Division Judge Boyer	file with the Clerk (740) 342-1022
Custody, parenting time, parentage, and support for unmarried parents; non-parent custody	Probate & Juvenile Court Judge Cooperrider	Paternity/Custody (740) 342-5520
Abuse, neglect, or dependency (children services) cases	Probate & Juvenile Court Judge Cooperrider	Juvenile (740) 342-1118
Stepparent and kinship adoption	Probate & Juvenile Court Judge Cooperrider	Probate (740) 342-1493

HOW THE COURTS WORK

The General Division hears divorce — often through its magistrate.

Perry County has no separate domestic-relations court. Divorce and dissolution are heard by the General Division (Judge Boyer), and a magistrate (Jamie Farmer) hears many temporary and contested matters by reference. A separate combined Probate & Juvenile Court (Judge Cooperrider) handles the rest.

PERRY COUNTY QUIRK

The Clerk rejects a divorce filing without a support application.

Under Local Rule 17, every new divorce, dissolution, legal separation, annulment, or custody filing must include an Application for Child Support Services (the IV-D application) or the Clerk won't accept it. Get it from the Child Support Division, (740) 342-2278.

PERRY COUNTY COURTS

Child support, child safety, and filing notes.

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

MONEY FOR THE KIDS

Child support — Perry County CSEA

The Child Support Division, (740) 342-2278, through Job & Family Services, sets up and enforces support and can review an order. Every new domestic-relations case includes the IV-D application. The statewide calculator estimates the guideline number.

IF A CHILD MAY BE UNSAFE

Reporting abuse or neglect

Perry County Children Services, (740) 342-3551, investigates reports. The Ohio 24-hour hotline is 1-855-642-4453 (1-855-O-H-CHILD). If a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

HOW PERRY COUNTY TAKES FILINGS

In person, by mail, or e-file — but not to start a case by fax.

File with the Clerk in person or by mail, or e-file through the Henschen portal. Designated documents may be faxed (\$2 per transmission + \$1 per page), but a complaint, petition, or motion that starts or reopens a case may not be faxed (Local Rule 6). Court hours are 8:00–4:00; the courtroom entrance is at the rear of the building.

Divorce	\$285
Dissolution	\$235
Juvenile new case	\$300
Fee too high?	file a poverty affidavit

PART ONE

Domestic Relations: the married-couple court.

If you are married and ending it, the General Division handles your case — filed with the Clerk of Courts. It also issues protection orders. This part walks through each path in the order most people meet them.

COURT	JUDGE	MAGISTRATE	FILE WITH
General Division	Tina M. Boyer	Jamie Farmer	Clerk of Courts

ONE THING THAT SURPRISES PEOPLE IN PERRY COUNTY

Temporary support and custody are decided on paper.

Perry County decides temporary orders — who pays support, who has the children, who uses the home — non-orally, on the motion and affidavits, without an in-person hearing (Local Rules 12 and 18). That makes your paperwork matter enormously: file complete income proof (last year's W-2 plus six months of pay stubs) the first time.

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 — which is why it costs less to file (\$235 vs. \$285).

COURT	FILING FEE	COMPLETED WITHIN	SERVICE
General Division	\$235	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	Petition for Dissolution (form 17.0)
Agreement	Separation Agreement (form 19.0)
If minor children	Parenting plan + support worksheets
Parenting class	OSU Extension, before the hearing
Final step	Short hearing where you both confirm the deal

A REAL PERRY COUNTY TIMELINE
 Done within 90 days.
 Ohio law sets the hearing 30 to 90 days after filing, and Perry County's local rule requires every dissolution to be completed within 90 days. Both spouses attend, and with children both finish the parenting class first.

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>A You are starting the divorce</p> <p>You prepare the Complaint for Divorce on Perry County's own forms, with the income and property affidavits (and parenting and health-insurance affidavits if you have children) — plus the IV-D support application the Clerk requires.</p>	<p>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). Use the matching county answer form for your situation.</p>
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COURT	FEE	ANSWER DEADLINE	TEMP ORDERS
General Division	\$285	28 days	decided on paper

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 won't participate or can't be found (Perry posts notice at the county library and the New Lexington post office). A dissolution is a fully agreed joint filing with no one served. A pending divorce can even be converted to a dissolution later if you reach full agreement.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

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

Perry County posts its own copies of the Ohio Uniform Domestic Relations forms, numbered to match the statewide set — so you can download exactly what the court expects.

FORM (TAP TO OPEN)	WHERE TO GET IT	WHAT IT'S FOR
Complaint for Divorce With Children (form 7.0) https://pcccommonpleas.com/pdf/7.0.pdf	Perry County Common Pleas	The pleading that starts a divorce involving minor children
<p>△ Heads up: There's a without-children version (6.0) and matching answer and counterclaim forms on the county forms page.</p>		
Affidavit of Basic Information, Income and Expenses (form 1.0) https://pcccommonpleas.com/pdf/1.0.pdf	Perry County Common Pleas	Your finances; filed with the complaint
Affidavit of Property and Debt (form 2.0) https://pcccommonpleas.com/pdf/2.0.pdf	Perry County Common Pleas	Your property and debts; filed with the complaint
Parenting Proceeding Affidavit (form 3.0) https://pcccommonpleas.com/pdf/3.0.pdf	Perry County Common Pleas	Required with minor children — where they've lived, other cases
Motion and Affidavit for Temporary Orders (form 5.0) https://pcccommonpleas.com/pdf/5.0.pdf	Perry County Common Pleas	Asks for temporary support/custody, decided on the affidavits
All Perry County domestic-relations forms https://pcccommonpleas.com/forms.php	Perry County Common Pleas	The county's full set of posted divorce/dissolution forms
<p>△ Heads up: Attach the IV-D Application for Child Support Services to every new filing (Local Rule 17), or the Clerk will reject it.</p>		

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

What does a Perry 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	targeted by week 3
Case target (no kids)	within 12 months
Case target (with kids)	within 18 months

1 File with the affidavits and IV-D application, and pay
File the complaint with Affidavits 1, 2, and (with children) 3 and the health-insurance affidavit, the IV-D application, and the \$285 deposit — or a poverty affidavit.

2 Serve your spouse
Use the county Request for Service, or a Waiver of Service if your spouse will sign. If an address is unknown, service can be by posting or publication.

3 Temporary orders, on paper
File the temporary-orders motion and affidavit with full income proof. Perry decides temporary support and custody non-orally, usually around week 3.

4 Parenting class
With children, both parents complete the OSU Extension co-parenting class — after the answer date in a divorce, before the hearing in a dissolution.

5 Settle or go to hearing
A pretrial is set around week 12; the magistrate or judge manages settlement. Many cases resolve; if not, the court decides and issues the decree.

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 General Division through the Clerk of Courts, with the same \$285 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. It follows the divorce process (same affidavits, same IV-D application and parenting class), and can later lead to a divorce or dissolution.

Annulment (R.C. 3105.31)

A court declares a marriage was never valid on a specific ground — such as bigamy, being underage without consent, fraud, or incapacity. 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. For the legal-separation complaint, confirm with the Clerk whether to adapt the county divorce form or use the statewide legal-separation form.

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. Perry County's approach is distinctive: it decides them on paper.

Temporary orders are non-oral

File the Motion and Affidavit for Temporary Orders Without Oral Hearing (form 5.0) under Civ.R. 75(N). Perry decides temporary support, custody, and parenting time on the motion and affidavits — no in-person hearing unless oral argument is requested and allowed (Local Rules 12 and 18).

WHEN A CHILD IS IN DANGER

Ask about an ex parte order.

For an urgent child-safety situation, ask the court about an ex parte temporary custody order under Civ.R. 75(N), and confirm current emergency intake with the Clerk. Child-welfare emergencies are handled in Juvenile Court.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Document everything up front.

Because there's no hearing to explain things, support your income claims with last year's W-2 and six months of pay stubs (or an employer statement). The other side can file a counter-affidavit, and the court rules on the papers.

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.

Because a magistrate decides many matters in Perry County, knowing how to ask a judge to review a decision — and the short deadlines for doing it — matters.

FIRST LEVEL

Objecting to a magistrate's decision

The magistrate (Jamie Farmer) hears many domestic-relations matters by reference. You generally have 14 days to file written objections under Civ.R. 53; if you object to the facts, you must order a transcript (Perry's rate is \$5 per page). The judge then reviews the magistrate's decision — it 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 a family or household member to stay away, leave a shared home, and stop contact, and can set temporary custody and support terms. There is never a filing fee.

How it works

File a petition on the Ohio Supreme Court protection-order forms in the General Division (through the Clerk of Courts). The court can issue a temporary ex parte order the same day if you are in danger; a full hearing follows, generally within about 7 to 10 court days, 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. The Sheriff serves the order, and violating it is a crime. If the respondent is under 18, the petition is filed in Juvenile Court instead.

A PERRY COUNTY NOTE

Stalking orders go to the magistrate.

A civil stalking or sexually oriented offense protection order (R.C. 2903.214) — for someone who is not a family or household member — is filed in the General Division and referred to the magistrate (Local Rule 24).

Filing fee	none, ever
Ex parte order	same day, if in danger
Full hearing	about 7–10 court days
Final order	up to 5 years

FORM (TAP TO OPEN)	WHERE TO GET IT	WHAT IT'S FOR
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[Ohio protection-order forms \(petition, ex parte and full order\)](#)

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

Ohio Supreme Court (protection-order forms)

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

△ Heads up: No filing fee for the petitioner. Confirm the current protection-order intake desk and same-day hours with the Clerk, (740) 342-1022.

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 affidavits ask for a lot.
- 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 move money or cancel insurance once a case is filed.

PART TWO

Juvenile: when parents were never married.

Custody, parenting time, parentage, and support for unmarried parents are decided by the Probate & Juvenile Court (Judge Cooperrider), which runs a Paternity-Custody Division — not the divorce court.

COURT	JUDGE	PATERNITY/CUSTODY	NEW CASE
Probate & Juvenile	Luann Cooperrider	(740) 342-5520	\$300

WHY A SEPARATE COURT

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 the Juvenile Court's Paternity-Custody Division. A father generally establishes parentage first, then the court allocates custody and sets support. Custody for married or formerly married parents is decided in the divorce case instead.

JUVENILE

Unmarried parents: paternity first, then custody.

This is the most common Juvenile family-law case. It happens in two steps, and support is set through the court and the CSEA.

Step one: establish parentage

Parentage is the legal parent-child link (R.C. 3111). It can be set by a signed Acknowledgment of Paternity, by CSEA genetic testing, (740) 342-2278, or by a juvenile-court parentage case. 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.

WHAT A NEW CASE COSTS

\$300 to open, \$200 for the second parent.

A new Juvenile parentage or custody case has a \$300 cost deposit (\$200 for the second parent), with a fee waiver available on a poverty affidavit. The Juvenile Court directs filers to the Ohio Supreme Court standardized forms.

JUVENILE

Forms for an unmarried-parent case.

Perry County's Juvenile Court uses the Ohio Supreme Court standardized Domestic Relations and Juvenile forms.

FORM (TAP TO OPEN)	WHERE TO GET IT	WHAT IT'S FOR
Complaint for Parentage, Allocation & Parenting Time (SF 23 / JF 2) https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/docs/JCS/CFC/DRForms/Form23.pdf	Ohio Supreme Court (standardized form)	Establishes parentage and asks the court to allocate custody and time
Child Support Computation Worksheet https://ohiochildsupportcalculator.ohio.gov/home.html	Ohio child-support calculator	Builds the guideline support number
All standardized DR & Juvenile forms https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/domestic-relations-and-juvenile-standardized/1	Ohio Supreme Court (forms index)	The full set the Juvenile Court directs filers to use

△ Heads up: A fee waiver is available on a poverty affidavit; confirm any local cover forms with the Juvenile Court, (740) 342-5520.

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. Perry County publishes a detailed default schedule.

The county's standard schedule

Perry County's Standard Parenting Time Order (Appendix A) sets the default for divorcing parents: alternating weekends (Friday 6 p.m. to Sunday 6 p.m.), Wednesday evenings (6–8 p.m.), a holiday rotation, and five weeks of summer parenting time (written notice by April 1), with graduated schedules for infants. A residential parent may not move the child more than 150 miles without a modified order first.

A boundary worth knowing.

Parenting time for married or divorcing parents is set in the divorce case (General Division), not the Juvenile Court.

Grandparent and relative companionship

Non-parents do not have automatic rights. A grandparent or relative may seek companionship in qualifying situations — for example, when the parents are unmarried or a parent has died (R.C. 3109.11, 3109.12). The court weighs the child's best interest and a fit parent's wishes.

IF YOU MOVE

There are relocation rules.

A residential parent must follow R.C. 3109.051(G) before moving, and may not move the child more than 150 miles without first getting a modified parenting-time order.

JUVENILE

When a grandparent or relative is raising the child.

A relative or other suitable adult can ask the Juvenile Court for legal custody of a child when neither parent can appropriately care for them (R.C. 2151.23). It gives day-to-day custody while parents keep certain rights. It is not adoption.

Legal custody vs. the alternatives

Legal custody to a non-parent leaves parental rights intact and can be changed later; the court decides on the child's best interest and may order an investigation or appoint a Guardian ad Litem. Adoption (Probate) permanently ends parental rights, and guardianship is a separate Probate matter.

How it works

File a complaint or motion for legal custody in the Juvenile Court, or ask to join an existing juvenile case. A new case is \$300 (a custody request inside an existing unruly/delinquency case is \$50). If a child is alleged abused, neglected, or dependent, custody may be addressed within a Children Services case instead.

A short-term option.

A relative caring for a child may use a Caretaker Authorization Affidavit (R.C. 3109.65) for school and medical decisions without a custody case — confirm current use with the court.

A NOTE ON THE GAL

A guardian for the child.

In a contested custody case, the court may appoint a Guardian ad Litem; the Juvenile Court GAL deposit is \$500 per party, allocated by the court.

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. Support runs through the Juvenile Court and the CSEA.

Changing an order

Custody changes need a real change in circumstances plus the child's best interest (R.C. 3109.04); parenting-time changes use the best-interest standard; support changes on a qualifying change (the CSEA can also review it). Reopening a juvenile case has a \$200 deposit.

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>).

Two ways to change support.

You can request a CSEA administrative review, or file a modification motion in the Juvenile case when income or circumstances change.

JUVENILE

When Children Services is involved.

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

The stages, in plain order

1. A report comes in; Children Services investigates.
2. If a child is removed, a shelter-care hearing happens promptly.
3. Adjudication: the court decides if the child is abused, neglected, or dependent.
4. Disposition: the court sets placement (which can be a relative) and a case plan.
5. Reviews follow until there is a lasting, safe outcome.

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

Parents have the right to counsel, appointed if you can't afford one, and a Guardian ad Litem represents the child's best interest throughout the case.

REPORT FIRST IF A CHILD IS AT RISK

Who to call.

Perry County Children Services: (740) 342-3551. Ohio 24-hour hotline: 1-855-642-4453. Emergency: 911.

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 Perry County it is the Probate Court (Judge Cooperrider) — the same office as the Juvenile Court.

COURT	JUDGE	ADOPTION TOTAL	PHONE
Probate Court	Luann Cooperrider	\$400	(740) 342-1493

A PERRY COUNTY RESOURCE

There's a free monthly legal clinic.

The Perry County Free Legal Clinic, sponsored by Probate & Juvenile Judge Cooperrider, is held the first Tuesday of each month (except January and July), 3:00–4:00 p.m., for income-eligible residents with civil matters. Bring your income information and your paperwork.

PROBATE

What a Perry County adoption involves.

The Probate Court uses the Ohio standard adoption forms. The most common family adoptions are stepparent and kinship, and the central question is usually consent.

THE USUAL STICKING POINT

Consent is the heart of most cases.

Many stepparent adoptions turn on whether the other parent's consent is required. The failure-to-support-or-communicate exception is fact-specific — this is where early legal advice matters most.

WHAT IT COSTS

\$400 total, in two parts.

A Perry County adoption is \$400 total — a \$225 filing fee plus \$175 paid directly to the Court Investigator for the home study. A related name change is \$115.

- 1** **File the petition**
File the Petition for Adoption in the Probate Court with the child's birth record and the required consents.
- 2** **Consent or its exceptions**
A birth parent's consent is generally required unless the court finds it is not required — for example, under R.C. 3107.07, when a parent failed to support or communicate with the child for the statutory period.
- 3** **Assessment / home study**
A home study or pre-finalization assessment is typically required; stepparent cases may be streamlined. In Perry County the \$175 home-study fee is paid directly to the Court Investigator.
- 4** **Best-interest hearing**
The court holds a hearing and finds whether the adoption is in the child's best interest.
- 5** **Final decree**
The court enters the final decree of adoption, the child becomes the petitioner's legal child, and a new birth record issues.

FORM (TAP TO OPEN)	WHERE TO GET IT	WHAT IT'S FOR
Ohio standardized probate adoption forms https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/forms/all-forms/probate/5	Ohio Supreme Court (probate forms)	The adoption petition, consent, and decree forms Perry County uses
<p>△ Heads up: Confirm the home-study requirement and current fees with the Probate Court, (740) 342-1493.</p>		
Child Support Computation Worksheet (if support is affected) https://ohiochildsupportcalculator.ohio.gov/home.html	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.

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 Perry 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. The information was verified as of June 16, 2026 from official court sources. Always confirm current fees and requirements with the relevant Perry County court before you file.

Jurisdiction and responsibility.

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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 court and the level of help that fits.

(844) 694-2885

support@gavvl.com

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