

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2017-2018**

**S. B. No. 130**

**Senator Tavares**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 2301.02 and 2301.03 of the 1  
Revised Code to add two judges to the Domestic 2  
Relations Division of the Franklin County Court 3  
of Common Pleas to be elected in 2018. 4

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 2301.02 and 2301.03 of the 5  
Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 6

**Sec. 2301.02.** The number of judges of the court of common 7  
pleas for each county, the time for the next election of the 8  
judges in the several counties, and the beginning of their terms 9  
shall be as follows: 10

(A) In Adams, Ashland, Fayette, and Pike counties, one 11  
judge, elected in 1956, term to begin February 9, 1957; 12

In Brown, Crawford, Defiance, Highland, Holmes, Morgan, 13  
Ottawa, and Union counties, one judge, to be elected in 1954, 14  
term to begin February 9, 1955; 15

In Auglaize county, one judge, to be elected in 1956, term 16  
to begin January 9, 1957; 17

In Coshocton, Darke, Fulton, Gallia, Guernsey, Hardin, 18

Jackson, Knox, Madison, Mercer, Monroe, Paulding, Vinton, and 19  
Wyandot counties, one judge, to be elected in 1956, term to 20  
begin January 1, 1957; 21

In Morrow county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 22  
term to begin January 1, 1957, and one to be elected in 2006, 23  
term to begin January 1, 2007; 24

In Logan county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 25  
term to begin January 1, 1957, and one to be elected in 2004, 26  
term to begin January 2, 2005; 27

In Carroll, Clinton, Hocking, Meigs, Pickaway, Preble, 28  
Shelby, Van Wert, and Williams counties, one judge, to be 29  
elected in 1952, term to begin January 1, 1953; 30

In Champaign county, two judges, one to be elected in 31  
1952, term to begin January 1, 1953, and one to be elected in 32  
2008, term to begin February 10, 2009; 33

In Harrison and Noble counties, one judge, to be elected 34  
in 1954, term to begin April 18, 1955; 35

In Henry county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 36  
term to begin May 9, 1957, and one to be elected in 2004, term 37  
to begin January 1, 2005; 38

In Putnam county, one judge, to be elected in 1956, term 39  
to begin May 9, 1957; 40

In Huron county, one judge, to be elected in 1952, term to 41  
begin May 14, 1953; 42

In Perry county, one judge, to be elected in 1954, term to 43  
begin July 6, 1956; 44

In Sandusky county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954, 45

term to begin February 10, 1955, and one to be elected in 1978, 46  
term to begin January 1, 1979. 47

(B) In Allen county, three judges, one to be elected in 48  
1956, term to begin February 9, 1957, the second to be elected 49  
in 1958, term to begin January 1, 1959, and the third to be 50  
elected in 1992, term to begin January 1, 1993; 51

In Ashtabula county, three judges, one to be elected in 52  
1954, term to begin February 9, 1955, one to be elected in 1960, 53  
term to begin January 1, 1961, and one to be elected in 1978, 54  
term to begin January 2, 1979; 55

In Athens county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954, 56  
term to begin February 9, 1955, and one to be elected in 1990, 57  
term to begin July 1, 1991; 58

In Erie county, four judges, one to be elected in 1956, 59  
term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 1970, 60  
term to begin January 2, 1971, the third to be elected in 2004, 61  
term to begin January 2, 2005, and the fourth to be elected in 62  
2008, term to begin February 9, 2009; 63

In Fairfield county, three judges, one to be elected in 64  
1954, term to begin February 9, 1955, the second to be elected 65  
in 1970, term to begin January 1, 1971, and the third to be 66  
elected in 1994, term to begin January 2, 1995; 67

In Geauga county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 68  
term to begin January 1, 1957, and the second to be elected in 69  
1976, term to begin January 6, 1977; 70

In Greene county, four judges, one to be elected in 1956, 71  
term to begin February 9, 1957, the second to be elected in 72  
1960, term to begin January 1, 1961, the third to be elected in 73  
1978, term to begin January 2, 1979, and the fourth to be 74

elected in 1994, term to begin January 1, 1995;	75
In Hancock county, two judges, one to be elected in 1952,	76
term to begin January 1, 1953, and the second to be elected in	77
1978, term to begin January 1, 1979;	78
In Lawrence county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954,	79
term to begin February 9, 1955, and the second to be elected in	80
1976, term to begin January 1, 1977;	81
In Marion county, three judges, one to be elected in 1952,	82
term to begin January 1, 1953, the second to be elected in 1976,	83
term to begin January 2, 1977, and the third to be elected in	84
1998, term to begin February 9, 1999;	85
In Medina county, three judges, one to be elected in 1956,	86
term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 1966,	87
term to begin January 1, 1967, and the third to be elected in	88
1994, term to begin January 1, 1995;	89
In Miami county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954,	90
term to begin February 9, 1955, and one to be elected in 1970,	91
term to begin on January 1, 1971;	92
In Muskingum county, three judges, one to be elected in	93
1968, term to begin August 9, 1969, one to be elected in 1978,	94
term to begin January 1, 1979, and one to be elected in 2002,	95
term to begin January 2, 2003;	96
In Portage county, three judges, one to be elected in	97
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in	98
1960, term to begin January 1, 1961, and the third to be elected	99
in 1986, term to begin January 2, 1987;	100
In Ross county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956,	101
term to begin February 9, 1957, and the second to be elected in	102

1976, term to begin January 1, 1977;	103
In Scioto county, three judges, one to be elected in 1954,	104
term to begin February 10, 1955, the second to be elected in	105
1960, term to begin January 1, 1961, and the third to be elected	106
in 1994, term to begin January 2, 1995;	107
In Seneca county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956,	108
term to begin January 1, 1957, and the second to be elected in	109
1986, term to begin January 2, 1987;	110
In Warren county, four judges, one to be elected in 1954,	111
term to begin February 9, 1955, the second to be elected in	112
1970, term to begin January 1, 1971, the third to be elected in	113
1986, term to begin January 1, 1987, and the fourth to be	114
elected in 2004, term to begin January 2, 2005;	115
In Washington county, two judges, one to be elected in	116
1952, term to begin January 1, 1953, and one to be elected in	117
1986, term to begin January 1, 1987;	118
In Wood county, three judges, one to be elected in 1968,	119
term beginning January 1, 1969, the second to be elected in	120
1970, term to begin January 2, 1971, and the third to be elected	121
in 1990, term to begin January 1, 1991;	122
In Belmont and Jefferson counties, two judges, to be	123
elected in 1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 9,	124
1955, respectively;	125
In Clark county, four judges, one to be elected in 1952,	126
term to begin January 1, 1953, the second to be elected in 1956,	127
term to begin January 2, 1957, the third to be elected in 1986,	128
term to begin January 3, 1987, and the fourth to be elected in	129
1994, term to begin January 2, 1995;	130

In Clermont county, five judges, one to be elected in 1956, term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 1964, term to begin January 1, 1965, the third to be elected in 1982, term to begin January 2, 1983, the fourth to be elected in 1986, term to begin January 2, 1987, and the fifth to be elected in 2006, term to begin January 3, 2007;

In Columbiana county, two judges, one to be elected in 1952, term to begin January 1, 1953, and the second to be elected in 1956, term to begin January 1, 1957;

In Delaware county, three judges, one to be elected in 1990, term to begin February 9, 1991, the second to be elected in 1994, term to begin January 1, 1995, and the third to be elected in 2016, term to begin January 1, 2017;

In Lake county, six judges, one to be elected in 1958, term to begin January 1, 1959, the second to be elected in 1960, term to begin January 2, 1961, the third to be elected in 1964, term to begin January 3, 1965, the fourth and fifth to be elected in 1978, terms to begin January 4, 1979, and January 5, 1979, respectively, and the sixth to be elected in 2000, term to begin January 6, 2001;

In Licking county, four judges, one to be elected in 1954, term to begin February 9, 1955, one to be elected in 1964, term to begin January 1, 1965, one to be elected in 1990, term to begin January 1, 1991, and one to be elected in 2004, term to begin January 1, 2005;

In Lorain county, nine judges, two to be elected in 1952, terms to begin January 1, 1953, and January 2, 1953, respectively, one to be elected in 1958, term to begin January 3, 1959, one to be elected in 1968, term to begin January 1,

1969, two to be elected in 1988, terms to begin January 4, 1989, 160  
and January 5, 1989, respectively, two to be elected in 1998, 161  
terms to begin January 2, 1999, and January 3, 1999, 162  
respectively; and one to be elected in 2006, term to begin 163  
January 6, 2007; 164

In Butler county, eleven judges, one to be elected in 165  
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957; two to be elected in 1954, 166  
terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 9, 1955, 167  
respectively; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin January 168  
2, 1969; one to be elected in 1986, term to begin January 3, 169  
1987; two to be elected in 1988, terms to begin January 1, 1989, 170  
and January 2, 1989, respectively; one to be elected in 1992, 171  
term to begin January 4, 1993; two to be elected in 2002, terms 172  
to begin January 2, 2003, and January 3, 2003, respectively; and 173  
one to be elected in 2006, term to begin January 3, 2007; 174

In Richland county, four judges, one to be elected in 175  
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 176  
1960, term to begin February 9, 1961, the third to be elected in 177  
1968, term to begin January 2, 1969, and the fourth to be 178  
elected in 2004, term to begin January 3, 2005; 179

In Tuscarawas county, two judges, one to be elected in 180  
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957, and the second to be 181  
elected in 1960, term to begin January 2, 1961; 182

In Wayne county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 183  
term beginning January 1, 1957, and one to be elected in 1968, 184  
term to begin January 2, 1969; 185

In Trumbull county, six judges, one to be elected in 1952, 186  
term to begin January 1, 1953, the second to be elected in 1954, 187  
term to begin January 1, 1955, the third to be elected in 1956, 188

term to begin January 1, 1957, the fourth to be elected in 1964, 189  
term to begin January 1, 1965, the fifth to be elected in 1976, 190  
term to begin January 2, 1977, and the sixth to be elected in 191  
1994, term to begin January 3, 1995; 192

(C) In Cuyahoga county, thirty-nine judges; eight to be 193  
elected in 1954, terms to begin on successive days beginning 194  
from January 1, 1955, to January 7, 1955, and February 9, 1955, 195  
respectively; eight to be elected in 1956, terms to begin on 196  
successive days beginning from January 1, 1957, to January 8, 197  
1957; three to be elected in 1952, terms to begin from January 198  
1, 1953, to January 3, 1953; two to be elected in 1960, terms to 199  
begin on January 8, 1961, and January 9, 1961, respectively; two 200  
to be elected in 1964, terms to begin January 4, 1965, and 201  
January 5, 1965, respectively; one to be elected in 1966, term 202  
to begin on January 10, 1967; four to be elected in 1968, terms 203  
to begin on successive days beginning from January 9, 1969, to 204  
January 12, 1969; two to be elected in 1974, terms to begin on 205  
January 18, 1975, and January 19, 1975, respectively; five to be 206  
elected in 1976, terms to begin on successive days beginning 207  
January 6, 1977, to January 10, 1977; two to be elected in 1982, 208  
terms to begin January 11, 1983, and January 12, 1983, 209  
respectively; and two to be elected in 1986, terms to begin 210  
January 13, 1987, and January 14, 1987, respectively; 211

In Franklin county, ~~twenty-two~~ twenty-four judges; two to 212  
be elected in 1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 213  
9, 1955, respectively; four to be elected in 1956, terms to 214  
begin January 1, 1957, to January 4, 1957; four to be elected in 215  
1958, terms to begin January 1, 1959, to January 4, 1959; three 216  
to be elected in 1968, terms to begin January 5, 1969, to 217  
January 7, 1969; three to be elected in 1976, terms to begin on 218  
successive days beginning January 5, 1977, to January 7, 1977; 219



one to be elected in 1982, term to begin January 8, 1983; one to 220  
be elected in 1986, term to begin January 9, 1987; two to be 221  
elected in 1990, terms to begin July 1, 1991, and July 2, 1991, 222  
respectively; one to be elected in 1996, term to begin January 223  
2, 1997; ~~and~~ one to be elected in 2004, term to begin July 1, 224  
2005; and two to be elected in 2018, terms to begin January 9, 225  
2019, and January 10, 2019, respectively; 226

In Hamilton county, twenty-one judges; eight to be elected 227  
in 1966, terms to begin January 1, 1967, January 2, 1967, and 228  
from February 9, 1967, to February 14, 1967, respectively; five 229  
to be elected in 1956, terms to begin from January 1, 1957, to 230  
January 5, 1957; one to be elected in 1964, term to begin 231  
January 1, 1965; one to be elected in 1974, term to begin 232  
January 15, 1975; one to be elected in 1980, term to begin 233  
January 16, 1981; two to be elected at large in the general 234  
election in 1982, terms to begin April 1, 1983; one to be 235  
elected in 1990, term to begin July 1, 1991; and two to be 236  
elected in 1996, terms to begin January 3, 1997, and January 4, 237  
1997, respectively; 238

In Lucas county, fourteen judges; two to be elected in 239  
1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 9, 1955, 240  
respectively; two to be elected in 1956, terms to begin January 241  
1, 1957, and October 29, 1957, respectively; two to be elected 242  
in 1952, terms to begin January 1, 1953, and January 2, 1953, 243  
respectively; one to be elected in 1964, term to begin January 244  
3, 1965; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin January 4, 245  
1969; two to be elected in 1976, terms to begin January 4, 1977, 246  
and January 5, 1977, respectively; one to be elected in 1982, 247  
term to begin January 6, 1983; one to be elected in 1988, term 248  
to begin January 7, 1989; one to be elected in 1990, term to 249  
begin January 2, 1991; and one to be elected in 1992, term to 250

begin January 2, 1993;	251
In Mahoning county, seven judges; three to be elected in	252
1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, January 2, 1955, and	253
February 9, 1955, respectively; one to be elected in 1956, term	254
to begin January 1, 1957; one to be elected in 1952, term to	255
begin January 1, 1953; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin	256
January 2, 1969; and one to be elected in 1990, term to begin	257
July 1, 1991;	258
In Montgomery county, fifteen judges; three to be elected	259
in 1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, January 2, 1955, and	260
January 3, 1955, respectively; four to be elected in 1952, terms	261
to begin January 1, 1953, January 2, 1953, July 1, 1953, and	262
July 2, 1953, respectively; one to be elected in 1964, term to	263
begin January 3, 1965; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin	264
January 3, 1969; three to be elected in 1976, terms to begin on	265
successive days beginning January 4, 1977, to January 6, 1977;	266
two to be elected in 1990, terms to begin July 1, 1991, and July	267
2, 1991, respectively; and one to be elected in 1992, term to	268
begin January 1, 1993;	269
In Stark county, eight judges; one to be elected in 1958,	270
term to begin on January 2, 1959; two to be elected in 1954,	271
terms to begin on January 1, 1955, and February 9, 1955,	272
respectively; two to be elected in 1952, terms to begin January	273
1, 1953, and April 16, 1953, respectively; one to be elected in	274
1966, term to begin on January 4, 1967; and two to be elected in	275
1992, terms to begin January 1, 1993, and January 2, 1993,	276
respectively;	277
In Summit county, thirteen judges; four to be elected in	278
1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, January 2, 1955, January	279
3, 1955, and February 9, 1955, respectively; three to be elected	280

in 1958, terms to begin January 1, 1959, January 2, 1959, and 281  
May 17, 1959, respectively; one to be elected in 1966, term to 282  
begin January 4, 1967; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin 283  
January 5, 1969; one to be elected in 1990, term to begin May 1, 284  
1991; one to be elected in 1992, term to begin January 6, 1993; 285  
and two to be elected in 2008, terms to begin January 5, 2009, 286  
and January 6, 2009, respectively. 287

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, in any county 288  
having two or more judges of the court of common pleas, in which 289  
more than one-third of the judges plus one were previously 290  
elected at the same election, if the office of one of those 291  
judges so elected becomes vacant more than forty days prior to 292  
the second general election preceding the expiration of that 293  
judge's term, the office that that judge had filled shall be 294  
abolished as of the date of the next general election, and a new 295  
office of judge of the court of common pleas shall be created. 296  
The judge who is to fill that new office shall be elected for a 297  
six-year term at the next general election, and the term of that 298  
judge shall commence on the first day of the year following that 299  
general election, on which day no other judge's term begins, so 300  
that the number of judges that the county shall elect shall not 301  
be reduced. 302

Judges of the probate division of the court of common 303  
pleas are judges of the court of common pleas but shall be 304  
elected pursuant to sections 2101.02 and 2101.021 of the Revised 305  
Code, except in Adams, Harrison, Henry, Morgan, Noble, and 306  
Wyandot counties in which the judge of the court of common pleas 307  
elected pursuant to this section also shall serve as judge of 308  
the probate division, except in Lorain county in which the 309  
judges of the domestic relations division of the Lorain county 310  
court of common pleas elected pursuant to this section also 311

shall perform the duties and functions of the judge of the 312  
probate division from February 9, 2009, through September 28, 313  
2009, and except in Morrow county in which the judges of the 314  
court of common pleas elected pursuant to this section also 315  
shall perform the duties and functions of the judge of the 316  
probate division. 317

**Sec. 2301.03.** (A) In Franklin county, the judges of the 318  
court of common pleas whose terms begin on January 1, 1953, 319  
January 2, 1953, January 5, 1969, January 5, 1977, ~~and~~ January 320  
2, 1997, January 9, 2019, and January 10, 2019, and successors, 321  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 322  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 323  
of the court of common pleas of Franklin county and shall be 324  
elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, 325  
division of domestic relations. They shall have all the powers 326  
relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. 327  
and 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage proceedings under 328  
Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code over which the juvenile court 329  
has jurisdiction, and all divorce, dissolution of marriage, 330  
legal separation, and annulment cases shall be assigned to them. 331  
In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge who is 332  
senior in point of service shall serve on the children services 333  
board and the county advisory board and shall be the 334  
administrator of the domestic relations division and its 335  
subdivisions and departments. 336

(B) In Hamilton county: 337

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas, whose term 338  
begins on January 1, 1957, and successors, and the judge of the 339  
court of common pleas, whose term begins on February 14, 1967, 340  
and successors, shall be the juvenile judges as provided in 341

Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, with the powers 342  
and jurisdiction conferred by those chapters. 343

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 344  
begin on January 5, 1957, January 16, 1981, and July 1, 1991, 345  
and successors, shall be elected and designated as judges of the 346  
court of common pleas, division of domestic relations, and shall 347  
have assigned to them all divorce, dissolution of marriage, 348  
legal separation, and annulment cases coming before the court. 349  
On or after the first day of July and before the first day of 350  
August of 1991 and each year thereafter, a majority of the 351  
judges of the division of domestic relations shall elect one of 352  
the judges of the division as administrative judge of that 353  
division. If a majority of the judges of the division of 354  
domestic relations are unable for any reason to elect an 355  
administrative judge for the division before the first day of 356  
August, a majority of the judges of the Hamilton county court of 357  
common pleas, as soon as possible after that date, shall elect 358  
one of the judges of the division of domestic relations as 359  
administrative judge of that division. The term of the 360  
administrative judge shall begin on the earlier of the first day 361  
of August of the year in which the administrative judge is 362  
elected or the date on which the administrative judge is elected 363  
by a majority of the judges of the Hamilton county court of 364  
common pleas and shall terminate on the date on which the 365  
administrative judge's successor is elected in the following 366  
year. 367

In addition to the judge's regular duties, the 368  
administrative judge of the division of domestic relations shall 369  
be the administrator of the domestic relations division and its 370  
subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of the 371  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 372

division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating 373  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 374  
annulment cases, including any referees considered necessary by 375  
the judges in the discharge of their various duties. 376

The administrative judge of the division of domestic 377  
relations also shall designate the title, compensation, expense 378  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 379  
personnel of the division, and shall fix the duties of its 380  
personnel. The duties of the personnel, in addition to those 381  
provided for in other sections of the Revised Code, shall 382  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 383  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 384  
and counseling and conciliation services that may be made 385  
available to persons requesting them, whether or not the persons 386  
are parties to an action pending in the division. 387

The board of county commissioners shall appropriate the 388  
sum of money each year as will meet all the administrative 389  
expenses of the division of domestic relations, including 390  
reasonable expenses of the domestic relations judges and the 391  
division counselors and other employees designated to conduct 392  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 393  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 394  
conciliation and counseling, and all matters relating to those 395  
cases and counseling, and the expenses involved in the 396  
attendance of division personnel at domestic relations and 397  
welfare conferences designated by the division, and the further 398  
sum each year as will provide for the adequate operation of the 399  
division of domestic relations. 400

The compensation and expenses of all employees and the 401  
salary and expenses of the judges shall be paid by the county 402

treasurer from the money appropriated for the operation of the 403  
division, upon the warrant of the county auditor, certified to 404  
by the administrative judge of the division of domestic 405  
relations. 406

The summonses, warrants, citations, subpoenas, and other 407  
writs of the division may issue to a bailiff, constable, or 408  
staff investigator of the division or to the sheriff of any 409  
county or any marshal, constable, or police officer, and the 410  
provisions of law relating to the subpoenaing of witnesses in 411  
other cases shall apply insofar as they are applicable. When a 412  
summons, warrant, citation, subpoena, or other writ is issued to 413  
an officer, other than a bailiff, constable, or staff 414  
investigator of the division, the expense of serving it shall be 415  
assessed as a part of the costs in the case involved. 416

(3) The judge of the court of common pleas of Hamilton 417  
county whose term begins on January 3, 1997, and the successors 418  
to that judge shall each be elected and designated as the drug 419  
court judge of the court of common pleas of Hamilton county. The 420  
drug court judge may accept or reject any case referred to the 421  
drug court judge under division (B)(3) of this section. After 422  
the drug court judge accepts a referred case, the drug court 423  
judge has full authority over the case, including the authority 424  
to conduct arraignment, accept pleas, enter findings and 425  
dispositions, conduct trials, order treatment, and if treatment 426  
is not successfully completed pronounce and enter sentence. 427

A judge of the general division of the court of common 428  
pleas of Hamilton county and a judge of the Hamilton county 429  
municipal court may refer to the drug court judge any case, and 430  
any companion cases, the judge determines meet the criteria 431  
described under divisions (B)(3)(a) and (b) of this section. If 432

the drug court judge accepts referral of a referred case, the 433  
case, and any companion cases, shall be transferred to the drug 434  
court judge. A judge may refer a case meeting the criteria 435  
described in divisions (B) (3) (a) and (b) of this section that 436  
involves a violation of a condition of a community control 437  
sanction to the drug court judge, and, if the drug court judge 438  
accepts the referral, the referring judge and the drug court 439  
judge have concurrent jurisdiction over the case. 440

A judge of the general division of the court of common 441  
pleas of Hamilton county and a judge of the Hamilton county 442  
municipal court may refer a case to the drug court judge under 443  
division (B) (3) of this section if the judge determines that 444  
both of the following apply: 445

(a) One of the following applies: 446

(i) The case involves a drug abuse offense, as defined in 447  
section 2925.01 of the Revised Code, that is a felony of the 448  
third or fourth degree if the offense is committed prior to July 449  
1, 1996, a felony of the third, fourth, or fifth degree if the 450  
offense is committed on or after July 1, 1996, or a misdemeanor. 451

(ii) The case involves a theft offense, as defined in 452  
section 2913.01 of the Revised Code, that is a felony of the 453  
third or fourth degree if the offense is committed prior to July 454  
1, 1996, a felony of the third, fourth, or fifth degree if the 455  
offense is committed on or after July 1, 1996, or a misdemeanor, 456  
and the defendant is drug or alcohol dependent or in danger of 457  
becoming drug or alcohol dependent and would benefit from 458  
treatment. 459

(b) All of the following apply: 460

(i) The case involves an offense for which a community 461



control sanction may be imposed or is a case in which a 462  
mandatory prison term or a mandatory jail term is not required 463  
to be imposed. 464

(ii) The defendant has no history of violent behavior. 465

(iii) The defendant has no history of mental illness. 466

(iv) The defendant's current or past behavior, or both, is 467  
drug or alcohol driven. 468

(v) The defendant demonstrates a sincere willingness to 469  
participate in a fifteen-month treatment process. 470

(vi) The defendant has no acute health condition. 471

(vii) If the defendant is incarcerated, the county 472  
prosecutor approves of the referral. 473

(4) If the administrative judge of the court of common 474  
pleas of Hamilton county determines that the volume of cases 475  
pending before the drug court judge does not constitute a 476  
sufficient caseload for the drug court judge, the administrative 477  
judge, in accordance with the Rules of Superintendence for 478  
Courts of Common Pleas, shall assign individual cases to the 479  
drug court judge from the general docket of the court. If the 480  
assignments so occur, the administrative judge shall cease the 481  
assignments when the administrative judge determines that the 482  
volume of cases pending before the drug court judge constitutes 483  
a sufficient caseload for the drug court judge. 484

(5) As used in division (B) of this section, "community 485  
control sanction," "mandatory prison term," and "mandatory jail 486  
term" have the same meanings as in section 2929.01 of the 487  
Revised Code. 488

(C) (1) In Lorain county: 489

(a) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 490  
begin on January 3, 1959, January 4, 1989, and January 2, 1999, 491  
and successors, and the judge of the court of common pleas whose 492  
term begins on February 9, 2009, shall have the same 493  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 494  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 495  
of common pleas of Lorain county and shall be elected and 496  
designated as the judges of the court of common pleas, division 497  
of domestic relations. The judges of the court of common pleas 498  
whose terms begin on January 3, 1959, January 4, 1989, and 499  
January 2, 1999, and successors, shall have all of the powers 500  
relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. 501  
and 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage proceedings over 502  
which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, and all divorce, 503  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 504  
shall be assigned to them, except cases that for some special 505  
reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of common 506  
pleas. From February 9, 2009, through September 28, 2009, the 507  
judge of the court of common pleas whose term begins on February 508  
9, 2009, shall have all the powers relating to juvenile courts, 509  
and cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, 510  
parentage proceedings over which the juvenile court has 511  
jurisdiction, and divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 512  
separation, and annulment cases shall be assigned to that judge, 513  
except cases that for some special reason are assigned to some 514  
other judge of the court of common pleas. 515

(b) From January 1, 2006, through September 28, 2009, the 516  
judges of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 517  
relations, in addition to the powers and jurisdiction set forth 518  
in division (C) (1) (a) of this section, shall have jurisdiction 519  
over matters that are within the jurisdiction of the probate 520

court under Chapter 2101. and other provisions of the Revised 521  
Code. 522

(c) The judge of the court of common pleas, division of 523  
domestic relations, whose term begins on February 9, 2009, is 524  
the successor to the probate judge who was elected in 2002 for a 525  
term that began on February 9, 2003. After September 28, 2009, 526  
the judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 527  
relations, whose term begins on February 9, 2009, shall be the 528  
probate judge. 529

(2) (a) From February 9, 2009, through September 28, 2009, 530  
with respect to Lorain county, all references in law to the 531  
probate court shall be construed as references to the court of 532  
common pleas, division of domestic relations, and all references 533  
to the probate judge shall be construed as references to the 534  
judges of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 535  
relations. 536

(b) From February 9, 2009, through September 28, 2009, 537  
with respect to Lorain county, all references in law to the 538  
clerk of the probate court shall be construed as references to 539  
the judge who is serving pursuant to Rule 4 of the Rules of 540  
Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio as the administrative 541  
judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 542  
relations. 543

(D) In Lucas county: 544

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 545  
begin on January 1, 1955, and January 3, 1965, and successors, 546  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 547  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 548  
of the court of common pleas of Lucas county and shall be 549

elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, 550  
division of domestic relations. All divorce, dissolution of 551  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases shall be 552  
assigned to them. 553

The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in 554  
point of service, shall be considered as the presiding judge of 555  
the court of common pleas, division of domestic relations, and 556  
shall be charged exclusively with the assignment and division of 557  
the work of the division and the employment and supervision of 558  
all other personnel of the domestic relations division. 559

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 560  
begin on January 5, 1977, and January 2, 1991, and successors 561  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 562  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 563  
of the court of common pleas of Lucas county, shall be elected 564  
and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, juvenile 565  
division, and shall be the juvenile judges as provided in 566  
Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code with the powers and 567  
jurisdictions conferred by those chapters. In addition to the 568  
judge's regular duties, the judge of the court of common pleas, 569  
juvenile division, senior in point of service, shall be the 570  
administrator of the juvenile division and its subdivisions and 571  
departments and shall have charge of the employment, assignment, 572  
and supervision of the personnel of the division engaged in 573  
handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile cases, including 574  
any referees considered necessary by the judges of the division 575  
in the discharge of their various duties. 576

The judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, 577  
senior in point of service, also shall designate the title, 578  
compensation, expense allowance, hours, leaves of absence, and 579

vacation of the personnel of the division and shall fix the 580  
duties of the personnel of the division. The duties of the 581  
personnel, in addition to other statutory duties include the 582  
handling, servicing, and investigation of juvenile cases and 583  
counseling and conciliation services that may be made available 584  
to persons requesting them, whether or not the persons are 585  
parties to an action pending in the division. 586

(3) If one of the judges of the court of common pleas, 587  
division of domestic relations, or one of the judges of the 588  
juvenile division is sick, absent, or unable to perform that 589  
judge's judicial duties or the volume of cases pending in that 590  
judge's division necessitates it, the duties shall be performed 591  
by the judges of the other of those divisions. 592

(E) In Mahoning county: 593

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 594  
began on January 1, 1955, and successors, shall have the same 595  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 596  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 597  
common pleas of Mahoning county, shall be elected and designated 598  
as judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 599  
relations, and shall be assigned all the divorce, dissolution of 600  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases coming before 601  
the court. In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge 602  
of the court of common pleas, division of domestic relations, 603  
shall be the administrator of the domestic relations division 604  
and its subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of 605  
the employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of 606  
the division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating 607  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 608  
annulment cases, including any referees considered necessary in 609

the discharge of the various duties of the judge's office. 610

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 611  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of 612  
the personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 613  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 614  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 615  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 616  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and counseling 617  
and conciliation services that may be made available to persons 618  
requesting them, whether or not the persons are parties to an 619  
action pending in the division. 620

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 621  
began on January 2, 1969, and successors, shall have the same 622  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 623  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 624  
common pleas of Mahoning county, shall be elected and designated 625  
as judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and 626  
shall be the juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 627  
2152. of the Revised Code, with the powers and jurisdictions 628  
conferred by those chapters. In addition to the judge's regular 629  
duties, the judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile 630  
division, shall be the administrator of the juvenile division 631  
and its subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of 632  
the employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of 633  
the division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating 634  
juvenile cases, including any referees considered necessary by 635  
the judge in the discharge of the judge's various duties. 636

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 637  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacation of 638  
the personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 639

personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 640  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 641  
servicing, and investigation of juvenile cases and counseling 642  
and conciliation services that may be made available to persons 643  
requesting them, whether or not the persons are parties to an 644  
action pending in the division. 645

(3) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 646  
domestic relations or juvenile division, is sick, absent, or 647  
unable to perform that judge's judicial duties, or the volume of 648  
cases pending in that judge's division necessitates it, that 649  
judge's duties shall be performed by another judge of the court 650  
of common pleas. 651

(F) In Montgomery county: 652

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 653  
begin on January 2, 1953, and January 4, 1977, and successors, 654  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 655  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 656  
of the court of common pleas of Montgomery county and shall be 657  
elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, 658  
division of domestic relations. These judges shall have assigned 659  
to them all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, 660  
and annulment cases. 661

The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in 662  
point of service, shall be charged exclusively with the 663  
assignment and division of the work of the division and shall 664  
have charge of the employment and supervision of the personnel 665  
of the division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating 666  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 667  
annulment cases, including any necessary referees, except those 668  
employees who may be appointed by the judge, junior in point of 669

service, under this section and sections 2301.12 and 2301.18 of 670  
the Revised Code. The judge of the division of domestic 671  
relations, senior in point of service, also shall designate the 672  
title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of 673  
absence, and vacation of the personnel of the division and shall 674  
fix their duties. 675

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 676  
begin on January 1, 1953, and January 1, 1993, and successors, 677  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 678  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 679  
of the court of common pleas of Montgomery county, shall be 680  
elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, 681  
juvenile division, and shall be, and have the powers and 682  
jurisdiction of, the juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 683  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code. 684

In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge of 685  
the court of common pleas, juvenile division, senior in point of 686  
service, shall be the administrator of the juvenile division and 687  
its subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of the 688  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 689  
juvenile division, including any necessary referees, who are 690  
engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile cases. 691  
The judge, senior in point of service, also shall designate the 692  
title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of 693  
absence, and vacation of the personnel of the division and shall 694  
fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to 695  
other statutory duties, shall include the handling, servicing, 696  
and investigation of juvenile cases and of any counseling and 697  
conciliation services that are available upon request to 698  
persons, whether or not they are parties to an action pending in 699  
the division. 700



If one of the judges of the court of common pleas, 701  
division of domestic relations, or one of the judges of the 702  
court of common pleas, juvenile division, is sick, absent, or 703  
unable to perform that judge's duties or the volume of cases 704  
pending in that judge's division necessitates it, the duties of 705  
that judge may be performed by the judge or judges of the other 706  
of those divisions. 707

(G) In Richland county: 708

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 709  
begins on January 1, 1957, and successors, shall have the same 710  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 711  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 712  
of common pleas of Richland county and shall be elected and 713  
designated as judge of the court of common pleas, division of 714  
domestic relations. That judge shall be assigned and hear all 715  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 716  
annulment cases, all domestic violence cases arising under 717  
section 3113.31 of the Revised Code, and all post-decree 718  
proceedings arising from any case pertaining to any of those 719  
matters. The division of domestic relations has concurrent 720  
jurisdiction with the juvenile division of the court of common 721  
pleas of Richland county to determine the care, custody, or 722  
control of any child not a ward of another court of this state, 723  
and to hear and determine a request for an order for the support 724  
of any child if the request is not ancillary to an action for 725  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, annulment, or legal 726  
separation, a criminal or civil action involving an allegation 727  
of domestic violence, or an action for support brought under 728  
Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code. Except in cases that are 729  
subject to the exclusive original jurisdiction of the juvenile 730  
court, the judge of the division of domestic relations shall be 731

assigned and hear all cases pertaining to paternity or 732  
parentage, the care, custody, or control of children, parenting 733  
time or visitation, child support, or the allocation of parental 734  
rights and responsibilities for the care of children, all 735  
proceedings arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, all 736  
proceedings arising under the uniform interstate family support 737  
act contained in Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code, and all 738  
post-decree proceedings arising from any case pertaining to any 739  
of those matters. 740

In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge of 741  
the court of common pleas, division of domestic relations, shall 742  
be the administrator of the domestic relations division and its 743  
subdivisions and departments. The judge shall have charge of the 744  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 745  
domestic relations division, including any magistrates the judge 746  
considers necessary for the discharge of the judge's duties. The 747  
judge shall also designate the title, compensation, expense 748  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, vacation, and other 749  
employment-related matters of the personnel of the division and 750  
shall fix their duties. 751

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 752  
begins on January 3, 2005, and successors, shall have the same 753  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 754  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 755  
common pleas of Richland county, shall be elected and designated 756  
as judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and 757  
shall be, and have the powers and jurisdiction of, the juvenile 758  
judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised 759  
Code. Except in cases that are subject to the exclusive original 760  
jurisdiction of the juvenile court, the judge of the juvenile 761  
division shall not have jurisdiction or the power to hear, and 762

shall not be assigned, any case pertaining to paternity or 763  
parentage, the care, custody, or control of children, parenting 764  
time or visitation, child support, or the allocation of parental 765  
rights and responsibilities for the care of children or any 766  
post-decree proceeding arising from any case pertaining to any 767  
of those matters. The judge of the juvenile division shall not 768  
have jurisdiction or the power to hear, and shall not be 769  
assigned, any proceeding under the uniform interstate family 770  
support act contained in Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code. 771

In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge of 772  
the juvenile division shall be the administrator of the juvenile 773  
division and its subdivisions and departments. The judge shall 774  
have charge of the employment, assignment, and supervision of 775  
the personnel of the juvenile division who are engaged in 776  
handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile cases, including 777  
any magistrates whom the judge considers necessary for the 778  
discharge of the judge's various duties. 779

The judge of the juvenile division also shall designate 780  
the title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of 781  
absence, and vacation of the personnel of the division and shall 782  
fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to 783  
other statutory duties, include the handling, servicing, and 784  
investigation of juvenile cases and providing any counseling, 785  
conciliation, and mediation services that the court makes 786  
available to persons, whether or not the persons are parties to 787  
an action pending in the court, who request the services. 788

(H) (1) In Stark county, the judges of the court of common 789  
pleas whose terms begin on January 1, 1953, January 2, 1959, and 790  
January 1, 1993, and successors, shall have the same 791  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 792

receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 793  
common pleas of Stark county and shall be elected and designated 794  
as judges of the court of common pleas, family court division. 795  
They shall have all the powers relating to juvenile courts, and 796  
all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, 797  
all parentage proceedings over which the juvenile court has 798  
jurisdiction, and all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 799  
separation, and annulment cases, except cases that are assigned 800  
to some other judge of the court of common pleas for some 801  
special reason, shall be assigned to the judges. 802

(2) The judge of the family court division, second most 803  
senior in point of service, shall have charge of the employment 804  
and supervision of the personnel of the division engaged in 805  
handling, servicing, or investigating divorce, dissolution of 806  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, and necessary 807  
referees required for the judge's respective court. 808

(3) The judge of the family court division, senior in 809  
point of service, shall be charged exclusively with the 810  
administration of sections 2151.13, 2151.16, 2151.17, and 811  
2152.71 of the Revised Code and with the assignment and division 812  
of the work of the division and the employment and supervision 813  
of all other personnel of the division, including, but not 814  
limited to, that judge's necessary referees, but excepting those 815  
employees who may be appointed by the judge second most senior 816  
in point of service. The senior judge further shall serve in 817  
every other position in which the statutes permit or require a 818  
juvenile judge to serve. 819

(4) On and after ~~the effective date of this amendment~~ 820  
September 29, 2015, all references in law to "the division of 821  
domestic relations," "the domestic relations division," "the 822

domestic relations court," "the judge of the division of 823  
domestic relations," or "the judge of the domestic relations 824  
division" shall be construed, with respect to Stark county, as 825  
being references to "the family court division" or "the judge of 826  
the family court division." 827

(I) In Summit county: 828

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 829  
begin on January 4, 1967, and January 6, 1993, and successors, 830  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 831  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 832  
of the court of common pleas of Summit county and shall be 833  
elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, 834  
division of domestic relations. The judges of the division of 835  
domestic relations shall have assigned to them and hear all 836  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 837  
annulment cases that come before the court. Except in cases that 838  
are subject to the exclusive original jurisdiction of the 839  
juvenile court, the judges of the division of domestic relations 840  
shall have assigned to them and hear all cases pertaining to 841  
paternity, custody, visitation, child support, or the allocation 842  
of parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children 843  
and all post-decree proceedings arising from any case pertaining 844  
to any of those matters. The judges of the division of domestic 845  
relations shall have assigned to them and hear all proceedings 846  
under the uniform interstate family support act contained in 847  
Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code. 848

The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in 849  
point of service, shall be the administrator of the domestic 850  
relations division and its subdivisions and departments and 851  
shall have charge of the employment, assignment, and supervision 852

of the personnel of the division, including any necessary 853  
referees, who are engaged in handling, servicing, or 854  
investigating divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 855  
separation, and annulment cases. That judge also shall designate 856  
the title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of 857  
absence, and vacations of the personnel of the division and 858  
shall fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition 859  
to other statutory duties, shall include the handling, 860  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 861  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and of any 862  
counseling and conciliation services that are available upon 863  
request to all persons, whether or not they are parties to an 864  
action pending in the division. 865

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 866  
begins on January 1, 1955, and successors, shall have the same 867  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 868  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 869  
common pleas of Summit county, shall be elected and designated 870  
as judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and 871  
shall be, and have the powers and jurisdiction of, the juvenile 872  
judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised 873  
Code. Except in cases that are subject to the exclusive original 874  
jurisdiction of the juvenile court, the judge of the juvenile 875  
division shall not have jurisdiction or the power to hear, and 876  
shall not be assigned, any case pertaining to paternity, 877  
custody, visitation, child support, or the allocation of 878  
parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children or 879  
any post-decree proceeding arising from any case pertaining to 880  
any of those matters. The judge of the juvenile division shall 881  
not have jurisdiction or the power to hear, and shall not be 882  
assigned, any proceeding under the uniform interstate family 883

support act contained in Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code. 884

The juvenile judge shall be the administrator of the 885  
juvenile division and its subdivisions and departments and shall 886  
have charge of the employment, assignment, and supervision of 887  
the personnel of the juvenile division, including any necessary 888  
referees, who are engaged in handling, servicing, or 889  
investigating juvenile cases. The judge also shall designate the 890  
title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of 891  
absence, and vacation of the personnel of the division and shall 892  
fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to 893  
other statutory duties, shall include the handling, servicing, 894  
and investigation of juvenile cases and of any counseling and 895  
conciliation services that are available upon request to 896  
persons, whether or not they are parties to an action pending in 897  
the division. 898

(J) In Trumbull county, the judges of the court of common 899  
pleas whose terms begin on January 1, 1953, and January 2, 1977, 900  
and successors, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the 901  
same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation 902  
as other judges of the court of common pleas of Trumbull county 903  
and shall be elected and designated as judges of the court of 904  
common pleas, division of domestic relations. They shall have 905  
all the powers relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under 906  
Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage 907  
proceedings over which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, and 908  
all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 909  
annulment cases shall be assigned to them, except cases that for 910  
some special reason are assigned to some other judge of the 911  
court of common pleas. 912

(K) In Butler county: 913

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 914  
begin on January 1, 1957, and January 4, 1993, and successors, 915  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 916  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 917  
of the court of common pleas of Butler county and shall be 918  
elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, 919  
division of domestic relations. The judges of the division of 920  
domestic relations shall have assigned to them all divorce, 921  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 922  
coming before the court, except in cases that for some special 923  
reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of common 924  
pleas. The judges of the division of domestic relations also 925  
have concurrent jurisdiction with judges of the juvenile 926  
division of the court of common pleas of Butler county with 927  
respect to and may hear cases to determine the custody, support, 928  
or custody and support of a child who is born of issue of a 929  
marriage and who is not the ward of another court of this state, 930  
cases commenced by a party of the marriage to obtain an order 931  
requiring support of any child when the request for that order 932  
is not ancillary to an action for divorce, dissolution of 933  
marriage, annulment, or legal separation, a criminal or civil 934  
action involving an allegation of domestic violence, an action 935  
for support under Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code, or an 936  
action that is within the exclusive original jurisdiction of the 937  
juvenile division of the court of common pleas of Butler county 938  
and that involves an allegation that the child is an abused, 939  
neglected, or dependent child, and post-decree proceedings and 940  
matters arising from those types of cases. The judge senior in 941  
point of service shall be charged with the assignment and 942  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 943  
supervision of all other personnel of the domestic relations 944  
division. 945



The judge senior in point of service also shall designate 946  
the title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of 947  
absence, and vacations of the personnel of the division and 948  
shall fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition 949  
to other statutory duties, shall include the handling, 950  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 951  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and providing 952  
any counseling and conciliation services that the division makes 953  
available to persons, whether or not the persons are parties to 954  
an action pending in the division, who request the services. 955

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 956  
begin on January 3, 1987, and January 2, 2003, and successors, 957  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 958  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 959  
of the court of common pleas of Butler county, shall be elected 960  
and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, juvenile 961  
division, and shall be the juvenile judges as provided in 962  
Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, with the powers 963  
and jurisdictions conferred by those chapters. Except in cases 964  
that are subject to the exclusive original jurisdiction of the 965  
juvenile court, the judges of the juvenile division shall not 966  
have jurisdiction or the power to hear and shall not be 967  
assigned, but shall have the limited ability and authority to 968  
certify, any case commenced by a party of a marriage to 969  
determine the custody, support, or custody and support of a 970  
child who is born of issue of the marriage and who is not the 971  
ward of another court of this state when the request for the 972  
order in the case is not ancillary to an action for divorce, 973  
dissolution of marriage, annulment, or legal separation. The 974  
judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, who is 975  
senior in point of service, shall be the administrator of the 976

juvenile division and its subdivisions and departments. The 977  
judge, senior in point of service, shall have charge of the 978  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 979  
juvenile division who are engaged in handling, servicing, or 980  
investigating juvenile cases, including any referees whom the 981  
judge considers necessary for the discharge of the judge's 982  
various duties. 983

The judge, senior in point of service, also shall 984  
designate the title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, 985  
leaves of absence, and vacation of the personnel of the division 986  
and shall fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in 987  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 988  
servicing, and investigation of juvenile cases and providing any 989  
counseling and conciliation services that the division makes 990  
available to persons, whether or not the persons are parties to 991  
an action pending in the division, who request the services. 992

(3) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 993  
domestic relations or juvenile division, is sick, absent, or 994  
unable to perform that judge's judicial duties or the volume of 995  
cases pending in the judge's division necessitates it, the 996  
duties of that judge shall be performed by the other judges of 997  
the domestic relations and juvenile divisions. 998

(L) (1) In Cuyahoga county, the judges of the court of 999  
common pleas whose terms begin on January 8, 1961, January 9, 1000  
1961, January 18, 1975, January 19, 1975, and January 13, 1987, 1001  
and successors, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the 1002  
same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation 1003  
as other judges of the court of common pleas of Cuyahoga county 1004  
and shall be elected and designated as judges of the court of 1005  
common pleas, division of domestic relations. They shall have 1006

all the powers relating to all divorce, dissolution of marriage, 1007  
legal separation, and annulment cases, except in cases that are 1008  
assigned to some other judge of the court of common pleas for 1009  
some special reason. 1010

(2) The administrative judge is administrator of the 1011  
domestic relations division and its subdivisions and departments 1012  
and has the following powers concerning division personnel: 1013

(a) Full charge of the employment, assignment, and 1014  
supervision; 1015

(b) Sole determination of compensation, duties, expenses, 1016  
allowances, hours, leaves, and vacations. 1017

(3) "Division personnel" include persons employed or 1018  
referees engaged in hearing, servicing, investigating, 1019  
counseling, or conciliating divorce, dissolution of marriage, 1020  
legal separation and annulment matters. 1021

(M) In Lake county: 1022

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 1023  
begins on January 2, 1961, and successors, shall have the same 1024  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1025  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 1026  
of common pleas of Lake county and shall be elected and 1027  
designated as judge of the court of common pleas, division of 1028  
domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all the divorce, 1029  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 1030  
coming before the court, except in cases that for some special 1031  
reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of common 1032  
pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and 1033  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 1034  
supervision of all other personnel of the domestic relations 1035

division. 1036

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1037  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of 1038  
the personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The 1039  
duties of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, 1040  
shall include the handling, servicing, and investigation of 1041  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1042  
annulment cases and providing any counseling and conciliation 1043  
services that the division makes available to persons, whether 1044  
or not the persons are parties to an action pending in the 1045  
division, who request the services. 1046

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 1047  
begins on January 4, 1979, and successors, shall have the same 1048  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1049  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 1050  
common pleas of Lake county, shall be elected and designated as 1051  
judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and shall 1052  
be the juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of 1053  
the Revised Code, with the powers and jurisdictions conferred by 1054  
those chapters. The judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile 1055  
division, shall be the administrator of the juvenile division 1056  
and its subdivisions and departments. The judge shall have 1057  
charge of the employment, assignment, and supervision of the 1058  
personnel of the juvenile division who are engaged in handling, 1059  
servicing, or investigating juvenile cases, including any 1060  
referees whom the judge considers necessary for the discharge of 1061  
the judge's various duties. 1062

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1063  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacation of 1064  
the personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The 1065

duties of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, 1066  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of juvenile 1067  
cases and providing any counseling and conciliation services 1068  
that the division makes available to persons, whether or not the 1069  
persons are parties to an action pending in the division, who 1070  
request the services. 1071

(3) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 1072  
domestic relations or juvenile division, is sick, absent, or 1073  
unable to perform that judge's judicial duties or the volume of 1074  
cases pending in the judge's division necessitates it, the 1075  
duties of that judge shall be performed by the other judges of 1076  
the domestic relations and juvenile divisions. 1077

(N) In Erie county: 1078

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 1079  
begins on January 2, 1971, and the successors to that judge 1080  
whose terms begin before January 2, 2007, shall have the same 1081  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1082  
receive the same compensation as the other judge of the court of 1083  
common pleas of Erie county and shall be elected and designated 1084  
as judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 1085  
relations. The judge shall have all the powers relating to 1086  
juvenile courts, and shall be assigned all cases under Chapters 1087  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, parentage proceedings over 1088  
which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, and divorce, 1089  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1090  
except cases that for some special reason are assigned to some 1091  
other judge. 1092

On or after January 2, 2007, the judge of the court of 1093  
common pleas who is elected in 2006 shall be the successor to 1094  
the judge of the domestic relations division whose term expires 1095

on January 1, 2007, shall be designated as judge of the court of 1096  
common pleas, juvenile division, and shall be the juvenile judge 1097  
as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code with 1098  
the powers and jurisdictions conferred by those chapters. 1099

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas, general 1100  
division, whose term begins on January 1, 2005, and successors, 1101  
the judge of the court of common pleas, general division whose 1102  
term begins on January 2, 2005, and successors, and the judge of 1103  
the court of common pleas, general division, whose term begins 1104  
February 9, 2009, and successors, shall have assigned to them, 1105  
in addition to all matters that are within the jurisdiction of 1106  
the general division of the court of common pleas, all divorce, 1107  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 1108  
coming before the court, and all matters that are within the 1109  
jurisdiction of the probate court under Chapter 2101., and other 1110  
provisions, of the Revised Code. 1111

(0) In Greene county: 1112

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 1113  
begins on January 1, 1961, and successors, shall have the same 1114  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1115  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 1116  
of common pleas of Greene county and shall be elected and 1117  
designated as the judge of the court of common pleas, division 1118  
of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all divorce, 1119  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, annulment, uniform 1120  
reciprocal support enforcement, and domestic violence cases and 1121  
all other cases related to domestic relations, except cases that 1122  
for some special reason are assigned to some other judge of the 1123  
court of common pleas. 1124

The judge shall be charged with the assignment and 1125

division of the work of the division and with the employment and 1126  
supervision of all other personnel of the division. The judge 1127  
also shall designate the title, compensation, hours, leaves of 1128  
absence, and vacations of the personnel of the division and 1129  
shall fix their duties. The duties of the personnel of the 1130  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include 1131  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 1132  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 1133  
and the provision of counseling and conciliation services that 1134  
the division considers necessary and makes available to persons 1135  
who request the services, whether or not the persons are parties 1136  
in an action pending in the division. The compensation for the 1137  
personnel shall be paid from the overall court budget and shall 1138  
be included in the appropriations for the existing judges of the 1139  
general division of the court of common pleas. 1140

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 1141  
begins on January 1, 1995, and successors, shall have the same 1142  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1143  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 1144  
of common pleas of Greene county, shall be elected and 1145  
designated as judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile 1146  
division, and, on or after January 1, 1995, shall be the 1147  
juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the 1148  
Revised Code with the powers and jurisdiction conferred by those 1149  
chapters. The judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile 1150  
division, shall be the administrator of the juvenile division 1151  
and its subdivisions and departments. The judge shall have 1152  
charge of the employment, assignment, and supervision of the 1153  
personnel of the juvenile division who are engaged in handling, 1154  
servicing, or investigating juvenile cases, including any 1155  
referees whom the judge considers necessary for the discharge of 1156

the judge's various duties. 1157

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1158  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacation of 1159  
the personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The 1160  
duties of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, 1161  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of juvenile 1162  
cases and providing any counseling and conciliation services 1163  
that the court makes available to persons, whether or not the 1164  
persons are parties to an action pending in the court, who 1165  
request the services. 1166

(3) If one of the judges of the court of common pleas, 1167  
general division, is sick, absent, or unable to perform that 1168  
judge's judicial duties or the volume of cases pending in the 1169  
general division necessitates it, the duties of that judge of 1170  
the general division shall be performed by the judge of the 1171  
division of domestic relations and the judge of the juvenile 1172  
division. 1173

(P) In Portage county, the judge of the court of common 1174  
pleas, whose term begins January 2, 1987, and successors, shall 1175  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1176  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1177  
judges of the court of common pleas of Portage county and shall 1178  
be elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1179  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1180  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1181  
annulment cases coming before the court, except in cases that 1182  
for some special reason are assigned to some other judge of the 1183  
court of common pleas. The judge shall be charged with the 1184  
assignment and division of the work of the division and with the 1185  
employment and supervision of all other personnel of the 1186



domestic relations division. 1187

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1188  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of 1189  
the personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The 1190  
duties of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, 1191  
shall include the handling, servicing, and investigation of 1192  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1193  
annulment cases and providing any counseling and conciliation 1194  
services that the division makes available to persons, whether 1195  
or not the persons are parties to an action pending in the 1196  
division, who request the services. 1197

(Q) In Clermont county, the judge of the court of common 1198  
pleas, whose term begins January 2, 1987, and successors, shall 1199  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1200  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1201  
judges of the court of common pleas of Clermont county and shall 1202  
be elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1203  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1204  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1205  
annulment cases coming before the court, except in cases that 1206  
for some special reason are assigned to some other judge of the 1207  
court of common pleas. The judge shall be charged with the 1208  
assignment and division of the work of the division and with the 1209  
employment and supervision of all other personnel of the 1210  
domestic relations division. 1211

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1212  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of 1213  
the personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The 1214  
duties of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, 1215  
shall include the handling, servicing, and investigation of 1216

divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1217  
annulment cases and providing any counseling and conciliation 1218  
services that the division makes available to persons, whether 1219  
or not the persons are parties to an action pending in the 1220  
division, who request the services. 1221

(R) In Warren county, the judge of the court of common 1222  
pleas, whose term begins January 1, 1987, and successors, shall 1223  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1224  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1225  
judges of the court of common pleas of Warren county and shall 1226  
be elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1227  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1228  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1229  
annulment cases coming before the court, except in cases that 1230  
for some special reason are assigned to some other judge of the 1231  
court of common pleas. The judge shall be charged with the 1232  
assignment and division of the work of the division and with the 1233  
employment and supervision of all other personnel of the 1234  
domestic relations division. 1235

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1236  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of 1237  
the personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The 1238  
duties of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, 1239  
shall include the handling, servicing, and investigation of 1240  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1241  
annulment cases and providing any counseling and conciliation 1242  
services that the division makes available to persons, whether 1243  
or not the persons are parties to an action pending in the 1244  
division, who request the services. 1245

(S) In Licking county, the judges of the court of common 1246

pleas, whose terms begin on January 1, 1991, and January 1, 1247  
2005, and successors, shall have the same qualifications, 1248  
exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same 1249  
compensation as the other judges of the court of common pleas of 1250  
Licking county and shall be elected and designated as judges of 1251  
the court of common pleas, division of domestic relations. The 1252  
judges shall be assigned all divorce, dissolution of marriage, 1253  
legal separation, and annulment cases, all cases arising under 1254  
Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, all proceedings involving 1255  
child support, the allocation of parental rights and 1256  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation 1257  
for the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 1258  
parenting time, and visitation, and all post-decree proceedings 1259  
and matters arising from those cases and proceedings, except in 1260  
cases that for some special reason are assigned to another judge 1261  
of the court of common pleas. The administrative judge of the 1262  
division of domestic relations shall be charged with the 1263  
assignment and division of the work of the division and with the 1264  
employment and supervision of the personnel of the division. 1265

The administrative judge of the division of domestic 1266  
relations shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1267  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1268  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1269  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel of the 1270  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include 1271  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 1272  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1273  
cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and 1274  
proceedings involving child support, the allocation of parental 1275  
rights and responsibilities for the care of children and the 1276  
designation for the children of a place of residence and legal 1277

custodian, parenting time, and visitation and providing any 1278  
counseling and conciliation services that the division makes 1279  
available to persons, whether or not the persons are parties to 1280  
an action pending in the division, who request the services. 1281

(T) In Allen county, the judge of the court of common 1282  
pleas, whose term begins January 1, 1993, and successors, shall 1283  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1284  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1285  
judges of the court of common pleas of Allen county and shall be 1286  
elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1287  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1288  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1289  
annulment cases, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the 1290  
Revised Code, all proceedings involving child support, the 1291  
allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care 1292  
of children and the designation for the children of a place of 1293  
residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and visitation, 1294  
and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising from those 1295  
cases and proceedings, except in cases that for some special 1296  
reason are assigned to another judge of the court of common 1297  
pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and 1298  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 1299  
supervision of the personnel of the division. 1300

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1301  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1302  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1303  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel of the 1304  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include 1305  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 1306  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1307  
cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and 1308

proceedings involving child support, the allocation of parental 1309  
rights and responsibilities for the care of children and the 1310  
designation for the children of a place of residence and legal 1311  
custodian, parenting time, and visitation, and providing any 1312  
counseling and conciliation services that the division makes 1313  
available to persons, whether or not the persons are parties to 1314  
an action pending in the division, who request the services. 1315

(U) In Medina county, the judge of the court of common 1316  
pleas whose term begins January 1, 1995, and successors, shall 1317  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1318  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 1319  
of the court of common pleas of Medina county and shall be 1320  
elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1321  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1322  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1323  
annulment cases, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the 1324  
Revised Code, all proceedings involving child support, the 1325  
allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care 1326  
of children and the designation for the children of a place of 1327  
residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and visitation, 1328  
and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising from those 1329  
cases and proceedings, except in cases that for some special 1330  
reason are assigned to another judge of the court of common 1331  
pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and 1332  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 1333  
supervision of the personnel of the division. 1334

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1335  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1336  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1337  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 1338  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 1339

servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 1340  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, cases arising 1341  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and proceedings 1342  
involving child support, the allocation of parental rights and 1343  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation 1344  
for the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 1345  
parenting time, and visitation, and providing counseling and 1346  
conciliation services that the division makes available to 1347  
persons, whether or not the persons are parties to an action 1348  
pending in the division, who request the services. 1349

(V) In Fairfield county, the judge of the court of common 1350  
pleas whose term begins January 2, 1995, and successors, shall 1351  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1352  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1353  
judges of the court of common pleas of Fairfield county and 1354  
shall be elected and designated as judge of the court of common 1355  
pleas, division of domestic relations. The judge shall be 1356  
assigned all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, 1357  
and annulment cases, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of 1358  
the Revised Code, all proceedings involving child support, the 1359  
allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care 1360  
of children and the designation for the children of a place of 1361  
residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and visitation, 1362  
and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising from those 1363  
cases and proceedings, except in cases that for some special 1364  
reason are assigned to another judge of the court of common 1365  
pleas. The judge also has concurrent jurisdiction with the 1366  
probate-juvenile division of the court of common pleas of 1367  
Fairfield county with respect to and may hear cases to determine 1368  
the custody of a child, as defined in section 2151.011 of the 1369  
Revised Code, who is not the ward of another court of this 1370

state, cases that are commenced by a parent, guardian, or 1371  
custodian of a child, as defined in section 2151.011 of the 1372  
Revised Code, to obtain an order requiring a parent of the child 1373  
to pay child support for that child when the request for that 1374  
order is not ancillary to an action for divorce, dissolution of 1375  
marriage, annulment, or legal separation, a criminal or civil 1376  
action involving an allegation of domestic violence, an action 1377  
for support under Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code, or an 1378  
action that is within the exclusive original jurisdiction of the 1379  
probate-juvenile division of the court of common pleas of 1380  
Fairfield county and that involves an allegation that the child 1381  
is an abused, neglected, or dependent child, and post-decree 1382  
proceedings and matters arising from those types of cases. 1383

The judge of the domestic relations division shall be 1384  
charged with the assignment and division of the work of the 1385  
division and with the employment and supervision of the 1386  
personnel of the division. 1387

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1388  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1389  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1390  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel of the 1391  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include 1392  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 1393  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1394  
cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and 1395  
proceedings involving child support, the allocation of parental 1396  
rights and responsibilities for the care of children and the 1397  
designation for the children of a place of residence and legal 1398  
custodian, parenting time, and visitation, and providing any 1399  
counseling and conciliation services that the division makes 1400  
available to persons, regardless of whether the persons are 1401

parties to an action pending in the division, who request the 1402  
services. When the judge hears a case to determine the custody 1403  
of a child, as defined in section 2151.011 of the Revised Code, 1404  
who is not the ward of another court of this state or a case 1405  
that is commenced by a parent, guardian, or custodian of a 1406  
child, as defined in section 2151.011 of the Revised Code, to 1407  
obtain an order requiring a parent of the child to pay child 1408  
support for that child when the request for that order is not 1409  
ancillary to an action for divorce, dissolution of marriage, 1410  
annulment, or legal separation, a criminal or civil action 1411  
involving an allegation of domestic violence, an action for 1412  
support under Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code, or an action 1413  
that is within the exclusive original jurisdiction of the 1414  
probate-juvenile division of the court of common pleas of 1415  
Fairfield county and that involves an allegation that the child 1416  
is an abused, neglected, or dependent child, the duties of the 1417  
personnel of the domestic relations division also include the 1418  
handling, servicing, and investigation of those types of cases. 1419

(W) (1) In Clark county, the judge of the court of common 1420  
pleas whose term begins on January 2, 1995, and successors, 1421  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1422  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 1423  
of the court of common pleas of Clark county and shall be 1424  
elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1425  
domestic relations division. The judge shall have all the powers 1426  
relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. 1427  
and 2152. of the Revised Code and all parentage proceedings 1428  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code over which the juvenile 1429  
court has jurisdiction shall be assigned to the judge of the 1430  
division of domestic relations. All divorce, dissolution of 1431  
marriage, legal separation, annulment, uniform reciprocal 1432



support enforcement, and other cases related to domestic 1433  
relations shall be assigned to the domestic relations division, 1434  
and the presiding judge of the court of common pleas shall 1435  
assign the cases to the judge of the domestic relations division 1436  
and the judges of the general division. 1437

(2) In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge 1438  
of the division of domestic relations shall serve on the 1439  
children services board and the county advisory board. 1440

(3) If the judge of the court of common pleas of Clark 1441  
county, division of domestic relations, is sick, absent, or 1442  
unable to perform that judge's judicial duties or if the 1443  
presiding judge of the court of common pleas of Clark county 1444  
determines that the volume of cases pending in the division of 1445  
domestic relations necessitates it, the duties of the judge of 1446  
the division of domestic relations shall be performed by the 1447  
judges of the general division or probate division of the court 1448  
of common pleas of Clark county, as assigned for that purpose by 1449  
the presiding judge of that court, and the judges so assigned 1450  
shall act in conjunction with the judge of the division of 1451  
domestic relations of that court. 1452

(X) In Scioto county, the judge of the court of common 1453  
pleas whose term begins January 2, 1995, and successors, shall 1454  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1455  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 1456  
of the court of common pleas of Scioto county and shall be 1457  
elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1458  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1459  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1460  
annulment cases, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the 1461  
Revised Code, all proceedings involving child support, the 1462

allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care 1463  
of children and the designation for the children of a place of 1464  
residence and legal custodian, parenting time, visitation, and 1465  
all post-decree proceedings and matters arising from those cases 1466  
and proceedings, except in cases that for some special reason 1467  
are assigned to another judge of the court of common pleas. The 1468  
judge shall be charged with the assignment and division of the 1469  
work of the division and with the employment and supervision of 1470  
the personnel of the division. 1471

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1472  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1473  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1474  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 1475  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 1476  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 1477  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, cases arising 1478  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and proceedings 1479  
involving child support, the allocation of parental rights and 1480  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation 1481  
for the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 1482  
parenting time, and visitation, and providing counseling and 1483  
conciliation services that the division makes available to 1484  
persons, whether or not the persons are parties to an action 1485  
pending in the division, who request the services. 1486

(Y) In Auglaize county, the judge of the probate and 1487  
juvenile divisions of the Auglaize county court of common pleas 1488  
also shall be the administrative judge of the domestic relations 1489  
division of the court and shall be assigned all divorce, 1490  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 1491  
coming before the court. The judge shall have all powers as 1492  
administrator of the domestic relations division and shall have 1493

charge of the personnel engaged in handling, servicing, or 1494  
investigating divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1495  
separation, and annulment cases, including any referees 1496  
considered necessary for the discharge of the judge's various 1497  
duties. 1498

(Z) (1) In Marion county, the judge of the court of common 1499  
pleas whose term begins on February 9, 1999, and the successors 1500  
to that judge, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the 1501  
same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation 1502  
as the other judges of the court of common pleas of Marion 1503  
county and shall be elected and designated as judge of the court 1504  
of common pleas, domestic relations-juvenile-probate division. 1505  
Except as otherwise specified in this division, that judge, and 1506  
the successors to that judge, shall have all the powers relating 1507  
to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. 1508  
of the Revised Code, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of 1509  
the Revised Code, all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1510  
separation, and annulment cases, all proceedings involving child 1511  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 1512  
for the care of children and the designation for the children of 1513  
a place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 1514  
visitation, and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising 1515  
from those cases and proceedings shall be assigned to that judge 1516  
and the successors to that judge. Except as provided in division 1517  
(Z) (2) of this section and notwithstanding any other provision 1518  
of any section of the Revised Code, on and after February 9, 1519  
2003, the judge of the court of common pleas of Marion county 1520  
whose term begins on February 9, 1999, and the successors to 1521  
that judge, shall have all the powers relating to the probate 1522  
division of the court of common pleas of Marion county in 1523  
addition to the powers previously specified in this division, 1524

and shall exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the judge of the 1525  
probate division of that court over all matters that are within 1526  
the jurisdiction of the probate division of that court under 1527  
Chapter 2101., and other provisions, of the Revised Code in 1528  
addition to the jurisdiction of the domestic relations-juvenile- 1529  
probate division of that court otherwise specified in division 1530  
(Z) (1) of this section. 1531

(2) The judge of the domestic relations-juvenile-probate 1532  
division of the court of common pleas of Marion county or the 1533  
judge of the probate division of the court of common pleas of 1534  
Marion county, whichever of those judges is senior in total 1535  
length of service on the court of common pleas of Marion county, 1536  
regardless of the division or divisions of service, shall serve 1537  
as the clerk of the probate division of the court of common 1538  
pleas of Marion county. 1539

(3) On and after February 9, 2003, all references in law 1540  
to "the probate court," "the probate judge," "the juvenile 1541  
court," or "the judge of the juvenile court" shall be construed, 1542  
with respect to Marion county, as being references to both "the 1543  
probate division" and "the domestic relations-juvenile-probate 1544  
division" and as being references to both "the judge of the 1545  
probate division" and "the judge of the domestic relations- 1546  
juvenile-probate division." On and after February 9, 2003, all 1547  
references in law to "the clerk of the probate court" shall be 1548  
construed, with respect to Marion county, as being references to 1549  
the judge who is serving pursuant to division (Z) (2) of this 1550  
section as the clerk of the probate division of the court of 1551  
common pleas of Marion county. 1552

(AA) In Muskingum county, the judge of the court of common 1553  
pleas whose term begins on January 2, 2003, and successors, 1554

shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1555  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1556  
judges of the court of common pleas of Muskingum county and 1557  
shall be elected and designated as the judge of the court of 1558  
common pleas, division of domestic relations. The judge shall be 1559  
assigned all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, 1560  
and annulment cases, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of 1561  
the Revised Code, all proceedings involving child support, the 1562  
allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care 1563  
of children and the designation for the children of a place of 1564  
residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and visitation, 1565  
and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising from those 1566  
cases and proceedings, except in cases that for some special 1567  
reason are assigned to another judge of the court of common 1568  
pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and 1569  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 1570  
supervision of the personnel of the division. 1571

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1572  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1573  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1574  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel of the 1575  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include 1576  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 1577  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1578  
cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and 1579  
proceedings involving child support, the allocation of parental 1580  
rights and responsibilities for the care of children and the 1581  
designation for the children of a place of residence and legal 1582  
custodian, parenting time, and visitation and providing any 1583  
counseling and conciliation services that the division makes 1584  
available to persons, whether or not the persons are parties to 1585

an action pending in the division, who request the services. 1586

(BB) In Henry county, the judge of the court of common 1587  
pleas whose term begins on January 1, 2005, and successors, 1588  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1589  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1590  
judge of the court of common pleas of Henry county and shall be 1591  
elected and designated as the judge of the court of common 1592  
pleas, division of domestic relations. The judge shall have all 1593  
of the powers relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under 1594  
Chapter 2151. or 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage 1595  
proceedings arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code over 1596  
which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, all divorce, 1597  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1598  
all proceedings involving child support, the allocation of 1599  
parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children 1600  
and the designation for the children of a place of residence and 1601  
legal custodian, parenting time, and visitation, and all post- 1602  
decree proceedings and matters arising from those cases and 1603  
proceedings shall be assigned to that judge, except in cases 1604  
that for some special reason are assigned to the other judge of 1605  
the court of common pleas. 1606

(CC) (1) In Logan county, the judge of the court of common 1607  
pleas whose term begins January 2, 2005, and the successors to 1608  
that judge, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the 1609  
same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation 1610  
as the other judges of the court of common pleas of Logan county 1611  
and shall be elected and designated as judge of the court of 1612  
common pleas, domestic relations-juvenile-probate division. 1613  
Except as otherwise specified in this division, that judge, and 1614  
the successors to that judge, shall have all the powers relating 1615  
to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. 1616

of the Revised Code, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of 1617  
the Revised Code, all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1618  
separation, and annulment cases, all proceedings involving child 1619  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 1620  
for the care of children and designation for the children of a 1621  
place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 1622  
visitation, and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising 1623  
from those cases and proceedings shall be assigned to that judge 1624  
and the successors to that judge. Notwithstanding any other 1625  
provision of any section of the Revised Code, on and after 1626  
January 2, 2005, the judge of the court of common pleas of Logan 1627  
county whose term begins on January 2, 2005, and the successors 1628  
to that judge, shall have all the powers relating to the probate 1629  
division of the court of common pleas of Logan county in 1630  
addition to the powers previously specified in this division and 1631  
shall exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the judge of the 1632  
probate division of that court over all matters that are within 1633  
the jurisdiction of the probate division of that court under 1634  
Chapter 2101., and other provisions, of the Revised Code in 1635  
addition to the jurisdiction of the domestic relations-juvenile- 1636  
probate division of that court otherwise specified in division 1637  
(CC) (1) of this section. 1638

(2) The judge of the domestic relations-juvenile-probate 1639  
division of the court of common pleas of Logan county or the 1640  
probate judge of the court of common pleas of Logan county who 1641  
is elected as the administrative judge of the probate division 1642  
of the court of common pleas of Logan county pursuant to Rule 4 1643  
of the Rules of Superintendence shall be the clerk of the 1644  
probate division and juvenile division of the court of common 1645  
pleas of Logan county. The clerk of the court of common pleas 1646  
who is elected pursuant to section 2303.01 of the Revised Code 1647

shall keep all of the journals, records, books, papers, and 1648  
files pertaining to the domestic relations cases. 1649

(3) On and after January 2, 2005, all references in law to 1650  
"the probate court," "the probate judge," "the juvenile court," 1651  
or "the judge of the juvenile court" shall be construed, with 1652  
respect to Logan county, as being references to both "the 1653  
probate division" and the "domestic relations-juvenile-probate 1654  
division" and as being references to both "the judge of the 1655  
probate division" and the "judge of the domestic relations- 1656  
juvenile-probate division." On and after January 2, 2005, all 1657  
references in law to "the clerk of the probate court" shall be 1658  
construed, with respect to Logan county, as being references to 1659  
the judge who is serving pursuant to division (CC) (2) of this 1660  
section as the clerk of the probate division of the court of 1661  
common pleas of Logan county. 1662

(DD) (1) In Champaign county, the judge of the court of 1663  
common pleas whose term begins February 9, 2003, and the judge 1664  
of the court of common pleas whose term begins February 10, 1665  
2009, and the successors to those judges, shall have the same 1666  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1667  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 1668  
of common pleas of Champaign county and shall be elected and 1669  
designated as judges of the court of common pleas, domestic 1670  
relations-juvenile-probate division. Except as otherwise 1671  
specified in this division, those judges, and the successors to 1672  
those judges, shall have all the powers relating to juvenile 1673  
courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the 1674  
Revised Code, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the 1675  
Revised Code, all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1676  
separation, and annulment cases, all proceedings involving child 1677  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 1678



for the care of children and the designation for the children of 1679  
a place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 1680  
visitation, and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising 1681  
from those cases and proceedings shall be assigned to those 1682  
judges and the successors to those judges. Notwithstanding any 1683  
other provision of any section of the Revised Code, on and after 1684  
February 9, 2009, the judges designated by this division as 1685  
judges of the court of common pleas of Champaign county, 1686  
domestic relations-juvenile-probate division, and the successors 1687  
to those judges, shall have all the powers relating to probate 1688  
courts in addition to the powers previously specified in this 1689  
division and shall exercise jurisdiction over all matters that 1690  
are within the jurisdiction of probate courts under Chapter 1691  
2101., and other provisions, of the Revised Code in addition to 1692  
the jurisdiction of the domestic relations-juvenile-probate 1693  
division otherwise specified in division (DD)(1) of this 1694  
section. 1695

(2) On and after February 9, 2009, all references in law 1696  
to "the probate court," "the probate judge," "the juvenile 1697  
court," or "the judge of the juvenile court" shall be construed 1698  
with respect to Champaign county as being references to the 1699  
"domestic relations-juvenile-probate division" and as being 1700  
references to the "judge of the domestic relations-juvenile- 1701  
probate division." On and after February 9, 2009, all references 1702  
in law to "the clerk of the probate court" shall be construed 1703  
with respect to Champaign county as being references to the 1704  
judge who is serving pursuant to Rule 4 of the Rules of 1705  
Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio as the administrative 1706  
judge of the court of common pleas, domestic relations-juvenile- 1707  
probate division. 1708

(EE) In Delaware county, the judge of the court of common 1709

pleas whose term begins on January 1, 2017, and successors, 1710  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1711  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1712  
judges of the court of common pleas of Delaware county and shall 1713  
be elected and designated as the judge of the court of common 1714  
pleas, division of domestic relations. Divorce, dissolution of 1715  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, including any 1716  
post-decree proceedings, and cases involving questions of 1717  
paternity, custody, visitation, child support, and the 1718  
allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care 1719  
of children, regardless of whether those matters arise in post- 1720  
decree proceedings or involve children born between unmarried 1721  
persons, shall be assigned to that judge, except cases that for 1722  
some special reason are assigned to another judge of the court 1723  
of common pleas. 1724

(FF) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 1725  
domestic relations, or juvenile judge, of any of the counties 1726  
mentioned in this section is sick, absent, or unable to perform 1727  
that judge's judicial duties or the volume of cases pending in 1728  
the judge's division necessitates it, the duties of that judge 1729  
shall be performed by another judge of the court of common pleas 1730  
of that county, assigned for that purpose by the presiding judge 1731  
of the court of common pleas of that county to act in place of 1732  
or in conjunction with that judge, as the case may require. 1733

**Section 2.** That existing sections 2301.02 and 2301.03 of 1734  
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 1735

**Section 3.** Section 2301.03 of the Revised Code is 1736  
presented in this act as a composite of the section as amended 1737  
by both Am. H.B. 11 and Am. Sub. H.B. 64 of the 131st General 1738  
Assembly. The General Assembly, applying the principle stated in 1739

division (B) of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments 1740  
are to be harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous 1741  
operation, finds that the composite is the resulting version of 1742  
the section in effect prior to the effective date of the section 1743  
as presented in this act. 1744