

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2025-2026**

**S. B. No. 204**

**Senator Reynolds**

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To amend section 1923.06 and to enact section 1  
1923.111 of the Revised Code to provide for the 2  
suppression of eviction records in certain 3  
circumstances. 4

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

**Section 1.** That section 1923.06 be amended and section 5  
1923.111 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 6

**Sec. 1923.06.** (A) Any summons in an action, including a 7  
claim for possession, pursuant to this chapter shall be issued, 8  
be in the form specified, and be served and returned as provided 9  
in this section. Such service shall be at least seven days 10  
before the day set for trial. 11

(B) Every summons issued under this section to recover 12  
residential premises shall contain both of the following: 13

(1) The following language printed in a conspicuous 14  
manner: "A complaint to evict you has been filed with this 15  
court. No person shall be evicted unless the person's right to 16  
possession has ended and no person shall be evicted in 17  
retaliation for the exercise of the person's lawful rights. If 18  
you are depositing rent with the clerk of this court you shall 19  
continue to deposit such rent until the time of the court 20

hearing. The failure to continue to deposit such rent may result 21  
in your eviction. You may request a trial by jury. You have the 22  
right to seek legal assistance. If you cannot afford a lawyer, 23  
you may contact your local legal aid or legal service office. If 24  
none is available, you may contact your local bar association." 25

(2) A statement in bold-face type notifying the defendant 26  
of both of the following: 27

(a) Any records associated with the action are suppressed 28  
and not accessible to the public until an order is entered 29  
granting the plaintiff possession of the premises. 30

(b) If the plaintiff is granted possession of the 31  
premises, the court records may remain private if both parties 32  
agree to suppress the records. 33

(C) The clerk of the court in which a complaint to evict 34  
is filed shall mail any summons by ordinary mail, along with a 35  
copy of the complaint, document, or other process to be served, 36  
to the defendant at the address set forth in the caption of the 37  
summons and to any address set forth in any written instructions 38  
furnished to the clerk. The mailing shall be evidenced by a 39  
certificate of mailing which the clerk shall complete and file. 40

In addition to this ordinary mail service, the clerk also 41  
shall cause service of that process to be completed under either 42  
of the following: 43

(1) Division (D) or (E) of this section or both, depending 44  
upon which of those two methods of service is requested by the 45  
plaintiff upon filing the complaint to evict; 46

(2) Division (F) of this section if the action relates to 47  
a deceased manufactured home park resident. 48

(D) (1) If requested, the clerk shall deliver sufficient 49  
copies of the summons, complaint, document, or other process to 50  
be served to, and service shall be made by, one of the following 51  
persons: 52

(a) The sheriff of the county in which the premises are 53  
located when the process issues from a court of common pleas or 54  
county court; 55

(b) The bailiff of the court for service when process 56  
issues from a municipal court; 57

(c) Any person who is eighteen years of age or older, who 58  
is not a party, and who has been designated by order of the 59  
court to make service of process when process issues from any of 60  
the courts referred to in divisions (D) (1) (a) and (b) of this 61  
section. 62

(2) The person serving process shall effect service at the 63  
premises that are the subject of the forcible entry and detainer 64  
action by one of the following means: 65

(a) By locating the person to be served at the premises to 66  
tender a copy of the process and accompanying documents to that 67  
person; 68

(b) By leaving a copy of the summons, complaint, document, 69  
or other process with a person of suitable age and discretion 70  
found at the premises if the person to be served cannot be found 71  
at the time the person making service attempts to serve the 72  
summons pursuant to division (D) (2) (a) of this section; 73

(c) By posting a copy in a conspicuous place on the 74  
subject premises if service cannot be made pursuant to divisions 75  
(D) (2) (a) and (b) of this section. 76

(3) Within five days after receiving the summons, 77  
complaint, document, or other process from the clerk for 78  
service, the person making service shall return the process to 79  
the clerk. The person shall indicate on the process which method 80  
described in division (D) (2) of this section was used to serve 81  
the summons. The clerk shall make the appropriate entry on the 82  
appearance docket. 83

(E) If requested, the clerk shall mail by certified mail, 84  
return receipt requested, a copy of the summons, complaint, 85  
document, or other process to be served to the address set forth 86  
in the caption of the summons and to any address set forth in 87  
any written instructions furnished to the clerk. 88

(F) (1) If the person to be evicted in an action pursuant 89  
to this chapter is a deceased manufactured home park resident, 90  
the plaintiff shall provide to the clerk the following 91  
information: 92

(a) If the plaintiff knows that a probate court has 93  
granted letters testamentary or of administration for the estate 94  
of the deceased resident, the name and address of the probate 95  
court, the case number of the estate, and the name and address 96  
of the executor or administrator appointed by the probate court; 97

(b) If the plaintiff knows that a probate court has not 98  
granted letters testamentary or of administration for the estate 99  
of the deceased resident or does not know whether or not a 100  
probate court has granted letters testamentary or of 101  
administration for the estate, the names and addresses of the 102  
deceased resident's spouse and any other members of the deceased 103  
resident's immediate family that are known to the plaintiff; 104

(c) If the plaintiff does not possess the information set 105

forth in division (F)(1)(a) or (b) of this section, an affidavit 106  
from the plaintiff stating that the plaintiff does not possess 107  
the information. 108

(2)(a) Upon receipt from the plaintiff of the information 109  
set forth in division (F)(1)(a) of this section, the clerk shall 110  
mail by certified mail, return receipt requested, a copy of the 111  
summons, complaint, document, or other process to be served to 112  
the address of the executor or administrator appointed by the 113  
probate court. 114

(b) Upon receipt from the plaintiff of the information set 115  
forth in division (F)(1)(b) or (c) of this section, the clerk 116  
shall do both of the following: 117

(i) Mail by ordinary mail and by certified mail, return 118  
receipt requested, a copy of the summons, complaint, document, 119  
or other process to be served to the persons and addresses 120  
provided by the plaintiff, if any. The ordinary mail mailing 121  
shall be evidenced by a certificate of mailing that the clerk 122  
shall complete and file. 123

(ii) Cause service of notice to be made by publication in 124  
a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the 125  
complaint is filed. The publication shall set forth the name and 126  
address of the court, the case number, the name and address of 127  
the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney, and the name and 128  
address of the deceased manufactured home park resident. The 129  
publication shall describe the premises entered upon and 130  
detained, shall contain a summary statement of the object of the 131  
eviction complaint against the deceased resident, and shall 132  
state that the claim for restitution of the premises shall be 133  
scheduled for a hearing in accordance with local court rules, 134  
but in no event sooner than the seventh day from the date 135

service is complete. The clerk shall cause the publication to be 136  
published at least once a week for two weeks. 137

(G) Service of process shall be deemed complete on the 138  
date that any of the following has occurred: 139

(1) Service is made pursuant to division (D) (2) (a) or (b) 140  
of this section. 141

(2) Both ordinary mail service under division (C) and 142  
service by posting pursuant to division (D) (2) (c) of this 143  
section have been made. 144

(3) For service performed pursuant to division (E) or (F) 145  
(2) (a) of this section, on the date of mailing, if on the date 146  
of the hearing either of the following applies: 147

(a) The certified mail has not been returned for any 148  
reason other than refused or unclaimed. 149

(b) The certified mail has not been endorsed, and the 150  
ordinary mail has not been returned. 151

(4) For service performed under division (F) (2) (b) of this 152  
section, on the date of mailing under division (F) (2) (b) (i) of 153  
this section or on the date of the last publication under 154  
division (F) (2) (b) (ii) of this section, whichever is later, if 155  
on the date of the hearing, either of the following applies: 156

(a) The certified mail has not been returned for any 157  
reason other than refused or unclaimed. 158

(b) The certified mail has not been endorsed, and the 159  
ordinary mail has not been returned. 160

(H) (1) The claim for restitution of the premises shall be 161  
scheduled for hearing in accordance with local court rules, but 162

in no event sooner than the seventh day from the date service is 163  
complete. 164

(2) Answer day for any other claims filed with the claim 165  
for possession shall be twenty-eight days from the date service 166  
is deemed complete under this section. 167

(I) As used in this section, "immediate family" means a 168  
person's spouse, brothers and sisters of the whole or half 169  
blood, children, including adopted children and stepchildren, 170  
parents, and grandparents. 171

Sec. 1923.111. (A) For purposes of this section, 172  
"suppressed court record" means a court record that is 173  
accessible only to the following: 174

(1) Judges; 175  
(2) Court staff; 176  
(3) A party to the case; 177  
(4) A party's attorney, if applicable; 178  
(5) Authorized judicial department staff; 179  
(6) A person with a valid court order authorizing access 180  
to the court record. 181

(B) Upon the commencement of an action under this chapter, 182  
a court shall make any court record of the action a suppressed 183  
court record. 184

(C) If a plaintiff prevails on the merits in the action, 185  
the record under division (B) of this section is no longer a 186  
suppressed court record, and the court shall make the record 187  
available to the public unless the parties to the action agree 188  
that the record shall remain suppressed. If the parties agree 189

that the record shall remain suppressed, the record remains a 190  
suppressed court record. 191

(D) Any court record of the action under division (B) of 192  
this section shall remain a suppressed court record when either 193  
of the following applies: 194

(1) The action was dismissed. 195

(2) Judgment was granted for the defendant in the action. 196

(E) Nothing in this section prevents the names of the 197  
parties included in a court record that is suppressed pursuant 198  
to this section from being used by the court for administrative 199  
purposes. The court shall not publish the names of the parties 200  
online. 201

**Section 2.** That existing section 1923.06 of the Revised 202  
Code is hereby repealed. 203