

LORAIN COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT
225 Court Street, 4th Floor
Elyria, Ohio 44035

Judge Sherry L. Glass
Judge Frank J. Janik
Judge Lisa I. Swenski

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LORAIN COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT OPENS HELP CENTER

Lorain County, Ohio, April 19, 2023

Judge Sherry Glass, Administrative Judge for the Lorain County Domestic Relations Court, is pleased to announce the launch of its new Help Center. On October 24, 2022, the Domestic Relations Court was awarded a \$425,000 grant from the American Rescue Plan Act. The purpose of this grant was to increase access to justice for the citizens of Lorain County. According to Judge Lisa Swenski, the Help Center will accomplish this goal by providing self-represented individuals with information necessary to successfully navigate through the Court's processes and procedures.

Judge Frank Janik stated, "the Help Center will assist self-represented individuals seeking a divorce, dissolution, legal separation and/or protection order. The Help Center will also assist with custody, visitation, and/or child support." Judge Janik noted that the Help Center cannot provide legal advice, but it will provide access to standardized forms, answer general questions about the Court's processes and procedures, and connect litigants to other agencies when appropriate.

The Help Center has also partnered with Ohio Legal Help to develop a Virtual Self-Help Center (VSHC). The role of the VSHC is to provide an interactive online process for obtaining standardized forms and navigating the filing process. The Help Center and the VSHC are effective tools to modernize the Court and improve the public's navigation of legal proceedings both online and on-site.

Attorney Jessica Alvis will be supervising the Help Center, which is located at 225 Court Street, 2nd Floor, Elyria, Ohio 44035. The Help Center accepts walk-ins on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact The Help Center at helpcenter@lcfct.org or visit the Court's website at www.lcdrc.org.