



Lorain County Court of Common Pleas

Domestic Relations & Juvenile Court

Judge Sherry L. Glass

Judge Frank J. Janik

Judge Lisa I. Swenski

NOTICE OF CHANGE TO JUVENILE LOCAL RULES

The Judges of the Lorain County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, have considered and approved modifications to the Juvenile Division Local Rules. The new language of the Rule is available on the Court's website: www.lcdrc.org

Pursuant to Sup. R. 5(A)(2), there is an immediate need for this rule; therefore, the Court will adopt this rule immediately but will still afford the opportunity for public comment. Comments by members of the bar and any other citizen may be submitted by letter or email, no later than July 1, 2025, to:

Emily Kirsch
Court Administrator
Domestic Relations & Juvenile Court
225 Court Street, 4th Floor
Elyria, Ohio 44035
Emily.Kirsch@lcfct.org

All comments will be given reasonable consideration by the Judges of the Lorain County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations & Juvenile Court. If there are any modifications to the proposed rules as a result of comments, the proposed rule will be made available for comment for an additional 30 days.



JUVENILE LOCAL RULES

Amendment to Rule 3: Assignment of Cases

In January 2024, the local rules were amended to remove what was previously known as the “Co-Defendant Rule” in all delinquency cases. By removing this rule, all judge assignments on juvenile delinquency cases were randomly drawn or by subsection (C)(4) if a history exists for the juvenile. This created a result where **sibling** co-defendants could be assigned to different judges, creating a hardship for sibling co-defendants.

3. ASSIGNMENT OF CASES

C. Cases will be assigned by random draw, with the following exceptions:

1. Refiling of dismissed cases of the same action or filing of subsequent actions involving the same parties will be assigned to the initial Judge on the dismissed action, regardless of any transfers of the cases to another Judge subsequent to the initial filing.
2. In Delinquency cases with co-defendant(s), if there are known siblings in the co-defendant group, then all siblings shall be assigned to the same Judge. The Judge assigned to the first co-defendant sibling submitted for filing shall be the Judge assigned for the other sibling(s). For the purposes of this rule, “siblings” are defined as juveniles who share the same mother. The Judge for the first co-defendant sibling shall be determined by the Court’s local rule for Judge Assignment in delinquency cases.
- ~~2-3.~~ **Custody, Paternity, Support, or Grandparent Powers of Attorney:** If a history exists involving the same parties, the case will be assigned to the Judge assigned in the first historical filing. If no history exists involving the same parties, but if there is an open delinquency case involving the child who is the subject of the new case, the judge assigned to the delinquency case will be assigned. If a third-party files an action in which there is an existing case involving the same parties except for the third party, the case will be assigned to the same Judge.



In the event siblings have different Judge history, the Judge assigned to the first case filed will be the Judge assigned to case(s) for the siblings.

If the children at issue are the subjects of a case in the Domestic Clerk's office, it is the movant's responsibility to inform the clerks of the existence of said case for purposes of Judge assignment.

3 4. Dependent, Neglect or Abuse Cases, or Permanent Custody filing. If a history exists for the child on the Complaint, cases should be assigned following the hierarchy below. Additionally, if the case involves a sibling group, as identified in the Complaint, the Judge assignment will be based upon any of the children's history starting from the oldest sibling to the youngest sibling, following the hierarchy below:

- a. LCCS filing exists for said child;
- b. LCCS filing exists for full sibling of child;
- c. LCCS filing exists for half-sibling on maternal side;
- d. LCCS filing exists for the parent as a minor mother, and the parent was adjudicated no more than 4 years prior to the current filing;
- e. Paternity, Support, Custody, or POA/CAA exists for said child;
- f. Delinquent case exists in which said child was adjudicated and received a disposition.

4 5. Delinquency: If a history exists, a Judge will be assigned by following the hierarchy below:

- a. Open delinquency case exists for said child;
- b. Delinquent case exists in which said child was adjudicated and received a disposition;
- c. LCCS filing exists for said child;
- d. Paternity, Support, Custody, or POA/CAA exists for said child;
- e. Prior Juvenile Civil Protection Order filing exists for said child.

5 6. Traffic: If a juvenile has a history of traffic case(s), any open delinquency action pending, or has been adjudicated delinquent, the same Judge will be assigned.



~~6-7~~. **Juvenile Civil Protection Orders:** If a history exists on the Respondent, the same Judge will be assigned. Should the Respondent file a protection order against the same Petitioner the matter shall be assigned to the Judge with the original case.