



# Lorain County Court of Common Pleas

## Domestic Relations Court

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

### **NOTICE OF CHANGE TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS LOCAL RULES**

The Judges of the Lorain County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division, have considered and approved modifications to the Domestic Relations Court Local Rules. The new language of each Rule is available on the Court's website: [www.lcdrc.org](http://www.lcdrc.org)

Pursuant to Sup. R. 5(A), comments by the bar and any other citizen may be submitted. Comments should be submitted by email or letter no later than **June 18, 2026**, to:

Emily Kirsch  
Court Administrator  
225 Court Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Elyria, Ohio 44035  
[Emily.Kirsch@lcfct.org](mailto:Emily.Kirsch@lcfct.org)

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

**Rule 33. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Special Needs, and Interpreter Requests:**

This Rule was revised to ensure that individuals can meaningfully access court proceedings by establishing a clear process for requesting reasonable accommodations and interpreter services. The Appendix will include the Request Forms referenced in this Rule.

**Rule 33. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Special Needs, and Interpreter Requests**

- A. The Court will make every effort to provide reasonable accommodations for any party, counsel, witness, or member of the public coming to the Court who has a disability, special needs, and/or requires the use of an interpreter.
- B. Parties or their counsel are required to request the accommodation and/or interpreter not less than fourteen (14) days prior to any hearing so that the Court can make appropriate accommodations.
  - 1. **ADA or Special Needs.** A party requesting an accommodation due to a disability or special need shall complete and file the Court's Accommodation Request Form, which is attached in the Appendix.
    - a. The Accommodation Request Form must be filed with the Court, and it must include a statement of the disability or special need and a statement about the accommodation being requested. Medical documentation **should not** be filed in the Court.
    - b. Medical documentation or verification must be provided to the Accommodation Coordinator no less than 14 days prior to the hearing.
      - i. Failure to provide necessary documentation may result in a denial of the requested accommodation.
      - ii. Documentation can be provided by any of the following: (1) Email at [request@lcfct.org](mailto:request@lcfct.org); (2) Mail or Hand-Delivered: Attention: Accommodation Coordinator, 225 Court Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Elyria, Ohio 44035
  - 2. **Interpreter.** A party requesting an interpreter shall complete and file the Court Interpreter Request Form, which is attached in the Appendix. The person making the request shall include the language needed for the interpreter.
  - 3. If an accommodation or interpreter is needed outside the context of a specific case or filing, the Request Form should be submitted directly to the Accommodation Coordinator.
- C. It is the responsibility of the requesting party to notify the Court's Accommodation Coordinator if there is any change in the date or time of the hearing or if the accommodation or interpreter services are no longer necessary at least 48 hours prior to the hearing. A

failure to comply with this rule may result in a party being held responsible for the costs associated with the accommodation and/or interpreter/translator fees.

- D. The Court may deny an accommodation and/or interpreter/translator request that is unreasonable, used for harassment, unduly burdensome upon the Court, and/or any other improper purpose.
- E. The Court may deny an accommodation request that is not supported by medical documentation related to the request.

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**LORAIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION & JUVENILE DIVISION**

**Accommodation Request Form (Americans With Disabilities (ADA) & Special Needs)**

Please provide information for the person seeking an accommodation:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attorney Name (if represented by counsel):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attorney Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Attorney Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

The person seeking an accommodation is:  A party to the case  Not a party to a case

- I am requesting an ADA Accommodation or Special Needs Accommodation due to a disability or special need. The nature of my disability and/or special need(s) is/are as follows:

I am requesting the following accommodation:

- I understand that I must provide medical documentation or verification to the Court's Accommodation Coordinator before my request is processed.\*
- I am **not** a party to this case or any case, but I need accommodation:
- As a witness on a case
  - To file a new case / reopen a case\*
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**\* Medical Document/Verification and Accommodation Requests not related to an open case must be provided directly to the Accommodation Coordinator at:**

**Email:** [request@lcfct.org](mailto:request@lcfct.org)

**Mail or in-person:** Attention: Accommodation Coordinator, 225 Court Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Elyria, Ohio 44035

CC: Accommodation Coordinator

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**LORAIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION & JUVENILE DIVISION**

**Interpreter Request Form**

Please provide information for the person seeking an interpreter:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney Name (if represented by counsel): \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The person seeking an interpreter is:  A party to the case  Not a party to a case

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Language requested:

Spanish (Español)

American Sign Language

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**\* Request not related to an open case must be provided directly to the Accommodation Coordinator at:**

**Email:** [request@lcfcj.org](mailto:request@lcfcj.org)

**Mail or in-person:** Attention: Accommodation Coordinator, 225 Court Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Elyria, Ohio 44035

CC: Accommodation Coordinator

**Rule 34. Frivolous and Vexatious Conduct; Sanctions; Vexatious Litigators:** This is a new rule, and its purpose is to discourage filings that lack legal or factual merit or are made for improper purposes such as delay or harassment. It provides the court with authority to impose sanctions and restrict future filings to ensure efficient, fair, and orderly judicial proceedings.

**Rule 34. Frivolous and Vexatious Conduct; Sanctions; Vexatious Litigators.**

**A. Frivolous and Vexatious Conduct.**

1. A filing is considered frivolous if it is:
  - a. Not reasonably grounded in fact;
  - b. Not warranted by existing law;
  - c. Not supported by a good faith argument for an extension, modification, or reversal of existing law.
2. Vexatious conduct may include any filings that are made for delay, harassment, or any other improper purpose.
3. **Sanctions.** The Court may, on its own motion or motion of any party, determine that a filing is frivolous or constitutes vexatious conduct, and may impose sanctions upon the person who signed or submitted the filing, the represented party, or both. The sanctions may include an award to the opposing party for reasonable expenses, reasonable attorney fees, court costs or double costs, ordering the party to post a bond, or any other sanction the Court determines is just.

**B. Vexatious Litigator.** The Court may, on its own motion or motion of any party, declare a party or person who signed a filing to be a vexatious litigator.

1. A vexatious litigator under this Rule has the same meaning as defined in the Ohio Supreme Court Rules of Procedure 4.03. The Court may declare a person as a vexatious litigator if they habitually or persistently engaged in conduct described in this Rule, regardless of whether the sanctions were actually imposed.
2. The Court's order declaring that a person is a vexatious litigator shall remain in force indefinitely unless the order provides for its expiration after a specified period of time. The Court order may declare a person is a vexatious litigator on a specific case or cases, or in all filings under the jurisdiction of the Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court.
3. If the Court determines that a person is a vexatious litigator under this rule, the Court may impose filing restrictions on the person. The restrictions may include prohibiting the person from continuing or instituting legal proceedings in the Court

without first obtaining leave, prohibiting the filing of actions in this Court without payment of the filing fee or security costs, and/or any other restriction(s) the Court considers just.

4. The Domestic Relations and Juvenile Clerks shall not accept any complaint, motion, pleading, petition, action, writ, or any other filing by a person declared as a vexatious litigator unless the Court enters an order granting the person leave to file. If the Court grants a person that has been declared a vexatious litigator leave to file, then said leave applies only to the specific filing in question, and does not waive any requirements previously imposed for any future Court filings.

**Rule 35. Artificial Intelligence Assistance with Court Filings:** This is a new rule and it is intended to regulate and ensure the ethical use of artificial intelligence in court filings by requiring disclosure of AI assistance, mandating independent verification of facts and legal authorities, and preserving the integrity and reliability of materials submitted to the court. The Appendix will include a Certification Regarding Use of Artificial Intelligence.

**Rule 35. Artificial Intelligence Assistance with Court Filings**

- A. **Purpose and Scope:** This rule is established to govern the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies by attorneys and/or self-represented parties in the preparation and submission of materials to the court. It aims to ensure the ethical use of AI and maintain the integrity of evidence.
- B. **Definition of AI:** Any technology that uses machine learning, natural language processing, or any other computational mechanism to simulate human intelligence, including document generation, evidence creation or analysis, and legal research. AI-Assisted material means any document or evidence prepared with the assistance of AI technologies.
- C. **Disclosure of AI Assistance:**
1. Attorneys and/or self-represented parties must disclose the use of AI-assisted technology in the creation or editing of any document or evidence filed with the Court.
  2. Attorneys and/or self-represented parties must include a completed Certification Regarding Use of Artificial Intelligence in any pleading, filing, or submission to the Court if AI is used in the creation, preparation, and/or editing of any document submitted to the Court. The required Certification Regarding Use of Artificial Intelligence is attached in the Appendix.
  3. If it appears to the reviewing judicial officer that AI was used and there is no Certification attached to the filing or that an incomplete Certification is attached to the filing, the judicial officer may strike the filing from the record until such time as the Certification is filed, and may impose sanctions as outlined in subsection (E) of this rule.
- D. **Responsibility and Review:**
1. Attorneys and/or self-represented parties remain ultimately responsible for the accuracy, relevance, and appropriateness of AI-assisted materials submitted to the Court. Attorneys and/or self-represented parties must thoroughly review all AI-assisted materials to ensure all legal and ethical standards are met.
  2. Attorneys or self-represented parties must independently, through non-AI sources, verify all factual information and legal authorities used in any filing. If it appears to the

reviewing judicial officer that the information in the filings was not verified, the Court may impose sanctions as outlined in subsection (E) of this rule.

- E. Sanctions. Use of AI does not absolve attorneys from their duty of competence, diligence, and supervision as required under the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct. Violations of this rule may subject an attorney and/or party to sanctions, including but not limited to: striking of the pleadings, contempt of Court, and/or any other sanction as provided by law.

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**Certification Regarding Use of Artificial Intelligence**

I \_\_\_\_\_, certify that:

- (1) I used generative artificial intelligence (AI) in the creation or preparation of this document.
- (2) I used the following AI tools:
- (3) I used AI to:
  
- (4) I have reviewed the document to ensure the accuracy of the information in this filing. I have verified the accuracy of all factual assertions and legal authorities (including all legal statutes, laws, rules, and cases) independently and using non-AI sources.
- (5) I understand that failure to follow Local Rule 35 may result in striking of the pleadings, contempt of Court, and/or any other sanction as permitted under the law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date