



John W. Rudduck, *Judge*
Mary H. McElwee, *Chief Magistrate*
Helen L. Rowlands, *Magistrate*
Daniel N. Kosanovich, *Mediator*

Michael Sutton, *Bailiff*
Robert Wisecup, *Bailiff*
Lori Luttrell, *Admin. Asst.*
Beth Klemetsen, *Admin. Asst.*

Clinton County Court of Common Pleas

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Continual changes in Ohio law make it nearly impossible for parties to complete a divorce or dissolution involving minor children without the representation of a licensed attorney. All divorce decrees and decrees of dissolution involving minor children must contain orders providing for matters such as child support, health insurance, parenting time, notice of intent to relocate, application for Child Support Enforcement services and the list goes on.

These requirements are technical in nature and not within the knowledge of the average lay person. The Court cannot provide you legal advice and cannot help you draft the documents. You are strongly urged to seek the advice of an attorney even if you believe that your divorce or dissolution is relatively simple and you can agree upon the terms. An attorney can help put your agreement into the proper legal format and save you the time and aggravation of going through this process only to find that your divorce or dissolution cannot be granted.

The Court cannot grant your dissolution or divorce until **all** of the statutory requirements are met. You are urged to consider this warning prior to spending the deposit required for the filing of your divorce or dissolution papers. Not all of this money can be refunded once you file. The Clerk must, by law, recoup her actual costs for processing these papers. You are therefore advised to consult with an attorney prior to attempting to file on your own.

Sincerely,

John W. Rudduck
Judge

JWR/III