



For Immediate Release

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New online Help Center will aid people who represent themselves in Lorain County Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court

Free tool will make it easier to navigate the civil court system

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Many Lorain County residents represent themselves in civil legal cases such as divorce, child custody, and support because they cannot afford legal representation. Navigating the court system without the help of an attorney can be overwhelming, especially when families are already under stress.

A new online self-help center from the Lorain County Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court will give these self-represented litigants the help they need to better understand and navigate the civil court system. Developed in partnership with [Ohio Legal Help](#), a nonprofit that empowers Ohioans to resolve their civil legal issues, the [Virtual Self-Help Center](#) is a free, online tool that removes barriers to accessing justice.

“Improving access to justice is one of the most important responsibilities of the court,” said Judge Frank Janik, Judge of the Lorain County Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court. “The new Virtual Self-Help Center builds on the foundation of our in-person Help Center and offers access anytime, anywhere to the information our residents need to complete court forms, and better understand the court process.”

The Virtual Self-Help Center is available 24/7 and allows users to fill out, edit, save, and complete court forms on their mobile phones, tablets, or computers. It also provides local court information, guidance on filing documents, and what to expect at hearings. In addition, much of the legal information on the site is available in Spanish, helping Spanish-speaking users better understand the court process.

“The Virtual Self-Help Center removes major barriers for people trying to navigate the legal system on their own,” said Susan Choe, Executive Director of Ohio Legal Help. “Now, families don’t have to worry about finding transportation, taking time off work, or arranging childcare just to get the information and forms they need. They can get the help they need, when it works for them.”



Lorain County, home to more than 317,000 residents, has over 12% of its population living below the federal poverty level — making free, accessible resources like the Virtual Self-Help Center particularly critical.

The Lorain County launch follows the successful implementation of similar Virtual Self-Help Centers in Montgomery and Cuyahoga Counties, as part of Ohio Legal Help's broader mission to expand access to civil justice across the state.

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About Ohio Legal Help

Ohio Legal Help is a nonprofit organization launched in 2019 to help all Ohioans access the civil justice system. We provide plain language legal help information, interactive self-help tools, and connections to local legal and community resources that can help people resolve their legal issues. Since launch, Ohio Legal Help has served more than 4 million users statewide.