

NOTICE TO PRO SE DIVORCE/DISSOLUTION PARTIES

Ohio law requires that all final divorce/dissolution decrees involving children contain language concerning the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities including the issues of child support. Ohio law requires that such decrees have a child support computation worksheet attached calculated pursuant to Ohio child support guidelines. Only the Court can deviate from the amount of child support stated in that calculation worksheet based on the factors contained in O.R.C. §3119.23.

It is recommended that pro se parties to divorce/dissolution proceedings involving children seek legal counsel prior to filing their complaint/petition. IF PRO SE PARTIES CHOOSE NOT TO OBTAIN LEGAL COUNSEL WITH REGARD TO THE ISSUE OF CHILD SUPPORT, then the filing shall cause the CSEA to be sent a copy of the initial pleadings. The parties shall report to the Sandusky County CSEA within seven (7) days of filing of a petition for dissolution and within seven (7) days of service of a complaint for divorce to have a child support worksheet prepared.

Upon reporting to the Sandusky County CSEA, the parties shall provide the following information for calculation of child support:

- Copies of your Federal Income Tax Returns, including all schedules and attachments, W-2 forms and 1099 forms relating to such returns for the past 3 years.
- A current pay check stub.
- A statement from your health (medical) insurance provider, if applicable, regarding your out-of-pocket cost, if any, for medical insurance for the minor child/children of this matter. Please include the cost for both individual and family rates.
- Birth certificates for any minor children you have living in your home.
- Child care expenses from day care center or provider (receipts or written statement).
- Copy of child support order for any children for whom you are obligated to provide support.
- Court documents if you pay spousal support or alimony through another county or state.
- Proof of medical disabilities, if you are claiming same, including doctor's statement and pending Social Security application.

Upon completion of the child support calculation, the Sandusky County CSEA shall forward a recommendation letter with the Child Support Computation worksheet attached to the Court and both parties for inclusion in the final decree of divorce/dissolution. If the parties desire a different child support obligation that what is contained in the

recommendation from the CSEA, they must prove to the court that a deviation is in the best interest of the child(ren) and the Decree must contain an explanation of the reasons for such a deviation.

NOTICE: All decrees containing the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities must include:

1. a monthly child support obligation while health insurance is being provided (even if that amount is \$0.00); and,
2. a monthly child support obligation while health insurance is NOT being provided (even if that amount is \$0.00); and,
3. a monthly obligation for cash medical support while health insurance is NOT being provided (even if that amount is \$0.00 as determined by the CSEA); and,
4. a designation as to which party shall provide health insurance coverage for the minor children'
5. or, if it is determined by the CSEA that health insurance is not available to either party at a reasonable cost, that both parties shall notify the CSEA immediately in the event that health insurance becomes available through their employer.

If either party fails to comply with the requirements of this notice, a final decree of dissolution/divorce will not be granted by the Court.