## WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

The allocation of parental rights and responsibilities is only part of the family's new lifestyle. It is important for parents to focus on their children's needs as they adjust to the many changes accompanying a marriage breakdown. Many counties offer a parent education seminar for divorcing families and some counties require the seminar for all divorcing parents. These programs provide insight into the different ways children react to their parents' divorce and suggest ideas for helping them deal with the changes.

Many courts use family mediators who are trained to assist parents after divorce or separation. Mediators can help parents to resolve disagreements and cooperate in the care of the children.

If you need marriage and/or family counseling before, during, or after divorce, you may want to ask your attorney, a governmental agency, your family doctor, or your religious or spiritual advisor for suggestions. Choose a counselor as you would a doctor or lawyer. Ask about credentials, training and years in practice.



#### **CONTACT US:**

41 N. Perry Street, Room 104, Dayton, OH 45422

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937-496-7623



Clerkhelpcenter@mcohio.org



Monday-Friday 8:30AM to 4:30PM

To view our outreach schedule or find out more information, please visit our website at **WWW.COURTHOUSETOYOU.COM**.



#### **OUR DIVISIONS:**

CIVIL: 937-225-4512 CRIMINAL: 937-225-4536 DOMESTIC RELATIONS: 937-225-4562 RECORDS: 937-496-7762 AUTO TITLE: 937-225-4480 EASTERN MUNICIPAL COURT (HUBER HEIGHTS): 937-496-7231 WESTERN MUNICIPAL COURT (TROTWOOD): 937-687-9099



CONSTITUENT
AT A TIME.

#### SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER SEPARATION

#### **MIKE FOLEY**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS





#### SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER SEPARATION?

When parents come before the domestic relations court to terminate their marriage (or before the juvenile court in a parentage proceeding), the court must address what will happen to their children. The marriage or relationship may end, but both former spouses/partners will still be parents, and their children will still need regular contact with both parents.

#### HOW ARE PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DIVIDED?

The current term for the time parents spend with their children is parenting time (not visitation), whether there is shared parenting or legal custody to one residential parent.

Procedures for dividing parental rights and responsibilities now emphasize the rights of the child to be loved and supported while maintaining relationships with both parents, despite difficulties the parents may have with each other.

All parents have certain rights and responsibilities regarding the care of their children. When parents' divorce or separate, these rights and responsibilities are even more important. The court's role is to ensure that the "best interests" of the children are protected. Therefore, the parental rights and responsibilities are expressly "allocated" to the parents.

When parents disagree, the court may appoint guardian ad litem to investigate and to recommend what is in the child(ren)'s best interest. Also, if either parent files a motion to request it, the court will interview the child(ren) in private, and if the court determines the child(ren) are mature enough to state their wishes, the court may consider their wishes as stated. No child is ever required to "choose," and the court has discretion to grant or deny a child's request.



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION:

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS

301 W Third St.
Dayton, OH 45402
Phone: 937-225-4063

#### **DAYTON MEDIATION CENTER**

371 W 2nd St. STE 300, Dayton, OH 45402

Phone: 937-333-2345

