

**As Reported by the Senate Judiciary--Civil Justice Committee**

**125th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2003-2004**

**Sub. H. B. No. 86**

**Representatives Hoops, Willamowski, Widowfield, Raga, Buehrer, Daniels,**

**Flowers, Latta, T. Patton, Redfern, Schlichter, Walcher, Webster**

**Senator Blessing**

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**A B I L L**

To amend sections 2151.07, 2301.02, 2301.03, and 1  
3501.38 and to enact sections 2101.023 and 2  
2101.024 of the Revised Code to add one judge to 3  
the Erie County Court of Common Pleas, to 4  
reallocate jurisdictional responsibilities of 5  
current judges of the Erie County Court of Common 6  
Pleas, to create the Domestic 7  
Relations-Juvenile-Probate Division of the Logan 8  
County Court of Common Pleas and to add one judge 9  
to the Logan County Court of Common Pleas to be 10  
elected in 2004, to specify that a board of 11  
elections may not invalidate a petition on the 12  
ground that its form does not satisfy statutory 13  
requirements, if the board originally distributed 14  
the petition form and, at the time of 15  
distribution, it did not satisfy statutory 16  
requirements, and to amend the version of section 17  
2301.03 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to 18  
take effect January 1, 2004, to continue the 19  
provisions of this act on and after that effective 20  
date, and to declare an emergency. 21

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 2151.07, 2301.02, 2301.03, and 22  
3501.38 be amended and sections 2101.023 and 2101.024 of the 23  
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 24

**Sec. 2101.023.** The judge of the court of common pleas of Erie 25  
county who is elected in 2008, and successors, is the successor to 26  
the judge of the probate division of that court whose term expires 27  
on February 8, 2009, shall be designated as a judge of the court 28  
of common pleas, general division, shall have all the powers 29  
relating to the general division of the court of common pleas of 30  
Erie county, shall be the clerk of the probate court, and shall 31  
exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the other judges of the 32  
general division of the court of common pleas of Erie county over 33  
matters that are within the jurisdiction of the probate division 34  
of that court under Chapter 2101., and other provisions, of the 35  
Revised Code and all matters that are within the jurisdiction of 36  
the general division of that court, as set forth in division 37  
(N)(2) of section 2301.03 of the Revised Code. 38

**Sec. 2101.024.** Effective January 2, 2005, the probate judge 39  
of the court of common pleas of Logan county shall have all the 40  
powers relating to the domestic relations-juvenile-probate 41  
division of the court of common pleas of Logan county, as 42  
established pursuant to division (CC)(1) of section 2301.03 of the 43  
Revised Code, and shall exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the 44  
judge of the domestic relations-juvenile-probate division of the 45  
court of common pleas of Logan county over matters that are within 46  
the jurisdiction of the domestic relations-juvenile-probate 47  
division, as set forth in division (CC)(1) of section 2301.03 of 48  
the Revised Code. 49

**Sec. 2151.07.** The juvenile court is a court of record within 50  
the court of common pleas. The juvenile court has and shall 51  
exercise the powers and jurisdiction conferred in Chapters 2151. 52  
and 2152. of the Revised Code. 53

Whenever the juvenile judge of the juvenile court is sick, is 54  
absent from the county, or is unable to attend court, or the 55  
volume of cases pending in court necessitates it, upon the request 56  
of the administrative juvenile judge, the presiding judge of the 57  
court of common pleas pursuant to division ~~(CC)~~(DD) of section 58  
2301.03 of the Revised Code shall assign a judge of any division 59  
of the court of common pleas of the county to act in the juvenile 60  
judge's place or in conjunction with the juvenile judge. If no 61  
judge of the court of common pleas is available for that purpose, 62  
the chief justice of the supreme court shall assign a judge of the 63  
court of common pleas, a juvenile judge, or a probate judge from a 64  
different county to act in the place of that juvenile judge or in 65  
conjunction with that juvenile judge. The assigned judge shall 66  
receive the compensation and expenses for so serving that is 67  
provided by law for judges assigned to hold court in courts of 68  
common pleas. 69

**Sec. 2301.02.** The number of judges of the court of common 70  
pleas for each county, the time for the next election of the 71  
judges in the several counties, and the beginning of their terms 72  
shall be as follows: 73

(A) In Adams, Ashland, Fayette, and Pike counties, one judge, 74  
elected in 1956, term to begin February 9, 1957; 75

In Brown, Crawford, Defiance, Highland, Holmes, Morgan, 76  
Ottawa, and Union counties, one judge, to be elected in 1954, term 77  
to begin February 9, 1955; 78

In Auglaize county, one judge, to be elected in 1956, term to 79

begin January 9, 1957;	80
In Coshocton, Darke, Fulton, Gallia, Guernsey, Hardin,	81
Jackson, Knox, <del>Logan</del> , Madison, Mercer, Monroe, Morrow, Paulding,	82
Vinton, and Wyandot counties, one judge, to be elected in 1956,	83
term to begin January 1, 1957;	84
<u>In Logan county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, term</u>	85
<u>to begin January 1, 1957, and one to be elected in 2004, term to</u>	86
<u>begin January 2, 2005;</u>	87
In Carroll, Champaign, Clinton, Hocking, Meigs, Pickaway,	88
Preble, Shelby, Van Wert, and Williams counties, one judge, to be	89
elected in 1952, term to begin January 1, 1953;	90
In Harrison and Noble counties, one judge, to be elected in	91
1954, term to begin April 18, 1955;	92
In Henry county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, term	93
to begin May 9, 1957, and one to be elected in 2004, term to begin	94
January 1, 2005;	95
In Putnam county, one judge, to be elected in 1956, term to	96
begin May 9, 1957;	97
In Huron county, one judge, to be elected in 1952, term to	98
begin May 14, 1953;	99
In Perry county, one judge, to be elected in 1954, term to	100
begin July 6, 1956;	101
In Sandusky county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954,	102
term to begin February 10, 1955, and one to be elected in 1978,	103
term to begin January 1, 1979;	104
(B) In Allen county, three judges, one to be elected in 1956,	105
term to begin February 9, 1957, the second to be elected in 1958,	106
term to begin January 1, 1959, and the third to be elected in	107
1992, term to begin January 1, 1993;	108
In Ashtabula county, three judges, one to be elected in 1954,	109

term to begin February 9, 1955, one to be elected in 1960, term to 110  
begin January 1, 1961, and one to be elected in 1978, term to 111  
begin January 2, 1979; 112

In Athens county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954, term 113  
to begin February 9, 1955, and one to be elected in 1990, term to 114  
begin July 1, 1991; 115

In Erie county, ~~two~~ four judges, one to be elected in 1956, 116  
term to begin January 1, 1957, ~~and~~ the second to be elected in 117  
1970, term to begin January 2, 1971, the third to be elected in 118  
2004, term to begin January 2, 2005, and the fourth to be elected 119  
in 2008, term to begin February 9, 2009; 120

In Fairfield county, three judges, one to be elected in 1954, 121  
term to begin February 9, 1955, the second to be elected in 1970, 122  
term to begin January 1, 1971, and the third to be elected in 123  
1994, term to begin January 2, 1995; 124

In Geauga county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, term 125  
to begin January 1, 1957, and the second to be elected in 1976, 126  
term to begin January 6, 1977; 127

In Greene county, four judges, one to be elected in 1956, 128  
term to begin February 9, 1957, the second to be elected in 1960, 129  
term to begin January 1, 1961, the third to be elected in 1978, 130  
term to begin January 2, 1979, and the fourth to be elected in 131  
1994, term to begin January 1, 1995; 132

In Hancock county, two judges, one to be elected in 1952, 133  
term to begin January 1, 1953, and the second to be elected in 134  
1978, term to begin January 1, 1979; 135

In Lawrence county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954, 136  
term to begin February 9, 1955, and the second to be elected in 137  
1976, term to begin January 1, 1977; 138

In Marion county, three judges, one to be elected in 1952, 139

term to begin January 1, 1953, the second to be elected in 1976, 140  
term to begin January 2, 1977, and the third to be elected in 141  
1998, term to begin February 9, 1999; 142

In Medina county, three judges, one to be elected in 1956, 143  
term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 1966, 144  
term to begin January 1, 1967, and the third to be elected in 145  
1994, term to begin January 1, 1995; 146

In Miami county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954, term 147  
to begin February 9, 1955, and one to be elected in 1970, term to 148  
begin on January 1, 1971; 149

In Muskingum county, three judges, one to be elected in 1968, 150  
term to begin August 9, 1969, one to be elected in 1978, term to 151  
begin January 1, 1979, and one to be elected in 2002, term to 152  
begin January 2, 2003; 153

In Portage county, three judges, one to be elected in 1956, 154  
term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 1960, 155  
term to begin January 1, 1961, and the third to be elected in 156  
1986, term to begin January 2, 1987; 157

In Ross county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, term 158  
to begin February 9, 1957, and the second to be elected in 1976, 159  
term to begin January 1, 1977; 160

In Scioto county, three judges, one to be elected in 1954, 161  
term to begin February 10, 1955, the second to be elected in 1960, 162  
term to begin January 1, 1961, and the third to be elected in 163  
1994, term to begin January 2, 1995; 164

In Seneca county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, term 165  
to begin January 1, 1957, and the second to be elected in 1986, 166  
term to begin January 2, 1987; 167

In Warren county, four judges, one to be elected in 1954, 168  
term to begin February 9, 1955, the second to be elected in 1970, 169

term to begin January 1, 1971, the third to be elected in 1986, 170  
term to begin January 1, 1987, and the fourth to be elected in 171  
2004, term to begin January 2, 2005; 172

In Washington county, two judges, one to be elected in 1952, 173  
term to begin January 1, 1953, and one to be elected in 1986, term 174  
to begin January 1, 1987; 175

In Wood county, three judges, one to be elected in 1968, term 176  
beginning January 1, 1969, the second to be elected in 1970, term 177  
to begin January 2, 1971, and the third to be elected in 1990, 178  
term to begin January 1, 1991; 179

In Belmont and Jefferson counties, two judges, to be elected 180  
in 1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 9, 1955, 181  
respectively; 182

In Clark county, four judges, one to be elected in 1952, term 183  
to begin January 1, 1953, the second to be elected in 1956, term 184  
to begin January 2, 1957, the third to be elected in 1986, term to 185  
begin January 3, 1987, and the fourth to be elected in 1994, term 186  
to begin January 2, 1995. 187

In Clermont county, four judges, one to be elected in 1956, 188  
term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 1964, 189  
term to begin January 1, 1965, the third to be elected in 1982, 190  
term to begin January 2, 1983, and the fourth to be elected in 191  
1986, term to begin January 2, 1987; 192

In Columbiana county, two judges, one to be elected in 1952, 193  
term to begin January 1, 1953, and the second to be elected in 194  
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957; 195

In Delaware county, two judges, one to be elected in 1990, 196  
term to begin February 9, 1991, the second to be elected in 1994, 197  
term to begin January 1, 1995; 198

In Lake county, six judges, one to be elected in 1958, term 199

to begin January 1, 1959, the second to be elected in 1960, term 200  
to begin January 2, 1961, the third to be elected in 1964, term to 201  
begin January 3, 1965, the fourth and fifth to be elected in 1978, 202  
terms to begin January 4, 1979, and January 5, 1979, respectively, 203  
and the sixth to be elected in 2000, term to begin January 6, 204  
2001; 205

In Licking county, three judges, one to be elected in 1954, 206  
term to begin February 9, 1955, one to be elected in 1964, term to 207  
begin January 1, 1965, and one to be elected in 1990, term to 208  
begin January 1, 1991; 209

In Lorain county, eight judges, two to be elected in 1952, 210  
terms to begin January 1, 1953, and January 2, 1953, respectively, 211  
one to be elected in 1958, term to begin January 3, 1959, one to 212  
be elected in 1968, term to begin January 1, 1969, two to be 213  
elected in 1988, terms to begin January 4, 1989, and January 5, 214  
1989, respectively, and two to be elected in 1998, terms to begin 215  
January 2, 1999, and January 3, 1999, respectively; 216

In Butler county, ten judges, one to be elected in 1956, term 217  
to begin January 1, 1957; two to be elected in 1954, terms to 218  
begin January 1, 1955, and February 9, 1955, respectively; one to 219  
be elected in 1968, term to begin January 2, 1969; one to be 220  
elected in 1986, term to begin January 3, 1987; two to be elected 221  
in 1988, terms to begin January 1, 1989, and January 2, 1989, 222  
respectively; one to be elected in 1992, term to begin January 4, 223  
1993; and two to be elected in 2002, terms to begin January 2, 224  
2003, and January 3, 2003, respectively; 225

In Richland county, four judges, one to be elected in 1956, 226  
term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 1960, 227  
term to begin February 9, 1961, the third to be elected in 1968, 228  
term to begin January 2, 1969, and the fourth to be elected in 229  
2004, term to begin January 3, 2005; 230



In Tuscarawas county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956,	231
term to begin January 1, 1957, and the second to be elected in	232
1960, term to begin January 2, 1961;	233
In Wayne county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, term	234
beginning January 1, 1957, and one to be elected in 1968, term to	235
begin January 2, 1969;	236
In Trumbull county, six judges, one to be elected in 1952,	237
term to begin January 1, 1953, the second to be elected in 1954,	238
term to begin January 1, 1955, the third to be elected in 1956,	239
term to begin January 1, 1957, the fourth to be elected in 1964,	240
term to begin January 1, 1965, the fifth to be elected in 1976,	241
term to begin January 2, 1977, and the sixth to be elected in	242
1994, term to begin January 3, 1995;	243
(C) In Cuyahoga county, thirty-nine judges; eight to be	244
elected in 1954, terms to begin on successive days beginning from	245
January 1, 1955, to January 7, 1955, and February 9, 1955,	246
respectively; eight to be elected in 1956, terms to begin on	247
successive days beginning from January 1, 1957, to January 8,	248
1957; three to be elected in 1952, terms to begin from January 1,	249
1953, to January 3, 1953; two to be elected in 1960, terms to	250
begin on January 8, 1961, and January 9, 1961, respectively; two	251
to be elected in 1964, terms to begin January 4, 1965, and January	252
5, 1965, respectively; one to be elected in 1966, term to begin on	253
January 10, 1967; four to be elected in 1968, terms to begin on	254
successive days beginning from January 9, 1969, to January 12,	255
1969; two to be elected in 1974, terms to begin on January 18,	256
1975, and January 19, 1975, respectively; five to be elected in	257
1976, terms to begin on successive days beginning January 6, 1977,	258
to January 10, 1977; two to be elected in 1982, terms to begin	259
January 11, 1983, and January 12, 1983, respectively; and two to	260
be elected in 1986, terms to begin January 13, 1987, and January	261
14, 1987, respectively;	262

In Franklin county, twenty-one judges; two to be elected in 1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 9, 1955, respectively; four to be elected in 1956, terms to begin January 1, 1957, to January 4, 1957; four to be elected in 1958, terms to begin January 1, 1959, to January 4, 1959; three to be elected in 1968, terms to begin January 5, 1969, to January 7, 1969; three to be elected in 1976, terms to begin on successive days beginning January 5, 1977, to January 7, 1977; one to be elected in 1982, term to begin January 8, 1983; one to be elected in 1986, term to begin January 9, 1987; two to be elected in 1990, terms to begin July 1, 1991, and July 2, 1991, respectively; and one to be elected in 1996, term to begin January 2, 1997;

In Hamilton county, twenty-one judges; eight to be elected in 1966, terms to begin January 1, 1967, January 2, 1967, and from February 9, 1967, to February 14, 1967, respectively; five to be elected in 1956, terms to begin from January 1, 1957, to January 5, 1957; one to be elected in 1964, term to begin January 1, 1965; one to be elected in 1974, term to begin January 15, 1975; one to be elected in 1980, term to begin January 16, 1981; two to be elected at large in the general election in 1982, terms to begin April 1, 1983; one to be elected in 1990, term to begin July 1, 1991; and two to be elected in 1996, terms to begin January 3, 1997, and January 4, 1997, respectively;

In Lucas county, fourteen judges; two to be elected in 1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 9, 1955, respectively; two to be elected in 1956, terms to begin January 1, 1957, and October 29, 1957, respectively; two to be elected in 1952, terms to begin January 1, 1953, and January 2, 1953, respectively; one to be elected in 1964, term to begin January 3, 1965; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin January 4, 1969; two to be elected in 1976, terms to begin January 4, 1977, and January 5, 1977, respectively; one to be elected in 1982, term to

begin January 6, 1983; one to be elected in 1988, term to begin 295  
January 7, 1989; one to be elected in 1990, term to begin January 296  
2, 1991; and one to be elected in 1992, term to begin January 2, 297  
1993; 298

In Mahoning county, seven judges; three to be elected in 299  
1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, January 2, 1955, and 300  
February 9, 1955, respectively; one to be elected in 1956, term to 301  
begin January 1, 1957; one to be elected in 1952, term to begin 302  
January 1, 1953; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin January 303  
2, 1969; and one to be elected in 1990, term to begin July 1, 304  
1991; 305

In Montgomery county, fifteen judges; three to be elected in 306  
1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, January 2, 1955, and January 307  
3, 1955, respectively; four to be elected in 1952, terms to begin 308  
January 1, 1953, January 2, 1953, July 1, 1953, July 2, 1953, 309  
respectively; one to be elected in 1964, term to begin January 3, 310  
1965; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin January 3, 1969; 311  
three to be elected in 1976, terms to begin on successive days 312  
beginning January 4, 1977, to January 6, 1977; two to be elected 313  
in 1990, terms to begin July 1, 1991, and July 2, 1991, 314  
respectively; and one to be elected in 1992, term to begin January 315  
1, 1993. 316

In Stark county, eight judges; one to be elected in 1958, 317  
term to begin on January 2, 1959; two to be elected in 1954, terms 318  
to begin on January 1, 1955, and February 9, 1955, respectively; 319  
two to be elected in 1952, terms to begin January 1, 1953, and 320  
April 16, 1953, respectively; one to be elected in 1966, term to 321  
begin on January 4, 1967; and two to be elected in 1992, terms to 322  
begin January 1, 1993, and January 2, 1993, respectively; 323

In Summit county, eleven judges; four to be elected in 1954, 324  
terms to begin January 1, 1955, January 2, 1955, January 3, 1955, 325  
and February 9, 1955, respectively; three to be elected in 1958, 326

terms to begin January 1, 1959, January 2, 1959, and May 17, 1959, 327  
respectively; one to be elected in 1966, term to begin January 4, 328  
1967; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin January 5, 1969; 329  
one to be elected in 1990, term to begin May 1, 1991; and one to 330  
be elected in 1992, term to begin January 6, 1993. 331

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, in any county 332  
having two or more judges of the court of common pleas, in which 333  
more than one-third of the judges plus one were previously elected 334  
at the same election, if the office of one of those judges so 335  
elected becomes vacant more than forty days prior to the second 336  
general election preceding the expiration of that judge's term, 337  
the office that that judge had filled shall be abolished as of the 338  
date of the next general election, and a new office of judge of 339  
the court of common pleas shall be created. The judge who is to 340  
fill that new office shall be elected for a six-year term at the 341  
next general election, and the term of that judge shall commence 342  
on the first day of the year following that general election, on 343  
which day no other judge's term begins, so that the number of 344  
judges that the county shall elect shall not be reduced. 345

Judges of the probate division of the court of common pleas 346  
are judges of the court of common pleas but shall be elected 347  
pursuant to sections 2101.02 and 2101.021 of the Revised Code, 348  
except in Adams, Harrison, Henry, Morgan, Morrow, Noble, and 349  
Wyandot counties in which the judge of the court of common pleas 350  
elected pursuant to this section also shall serve as judge of the 351  
probate division. 352

**Sec. 2301.03.** (A) In Franklin county, the judges of the court 353  
of common pleas whose terms begin on January 1, 1953, January 2, 354  
1953, January 5, 1969, January 5, 1977, and January 2, 1997, and 355  
successors, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same 356  
powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as 357

other judges of the court of common pleas of Franklin county and 358  
shall be elected and designated as judges of the court of common 359  
pleas, division of domestic relations. They shall have all the 360  
powers relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 361  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage proceedings 362  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code over which the juvenile 363  
court has jurisdiction, and all divorce, dissolution of marriage, 364  
legal separation, and annulment cases shall be assigned to them. 365  
In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge who is senior 366  
in point of service shall serve on the children services board and 367  
the county advisory board and shall be the administrator of the 368  
domestic relations division and its subdivisions and departments. 369  
370

(B) In Hamilton county: 371

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas, whose term begins 372  
on January 1, 1957, and successors, and the judge of the court of 373  
common pleas, whose term begins on February 14, 1967, and 374  
successors, shall be the juvenile judges as provided in Chapters 375  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, with the powers and 376  
jurisdiction conferred by those chapters. 377

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin 378  
on January 5, 1957, January 16, 1981, and July 1, 1991, and 379  
successors, shall be elected and designated as judges of the court 380  
of common pleas, division of domestic relations, and shall have 381  
assigned to them all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 382  
separation, and annulment cases coming before the court. On or 383  
after the first day of July and before the first day of August of 384  
1991 and each year thereafter, a majority of the judges of the 385  
division of domestic relations shall elect one of the judges of 386  
the division as administrative judge of that division. If a 387  
majority of the judges of the division of domestic relations are 388

unable for any reason to elect an administrative judge for the 389  
division before the first day of August, a majority of the judges 390  
of the Hamilton county court of common pleas, as soon as possible 391  
after that date, shall elect one of the judges of the division of 392  
domestic relations as administrative judge of that division. The 393  
term of the administrative judge shall begin on the earlier of the 394  
first day of August of the year in which the administrative judge 395  
is elected or the date on which the administrative judge is 396  
elected by a majority of the judges of the Hamilton county court 397  
of common pleas and shall terminate on the date on which the 398  
administrative judge's successor is elected in the following year. 399

In addition to the judge's regular duties, the administrative 400  
judge of the division of domestic relations shall be the 401  
administrator of the domestic relations division and its 402  
subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of the 403  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 404  
division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating divorce, 405  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 406  
including any referees considered necessary by the judges in the 407  
discharge of their various duties. 408

The administrative judge of the division of domestic 409  
relations also shall designate the title, compensation, expense 410  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 411  
personnel of the division, and shall fix the duties of its 412  
personnel. The duties of the personnel, in addition to those 413  
provided for in other sections of the Revised Code, shall include 414  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution 415  
of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and counseling 416  
and conciliation services that may be made available to persons 417  
requesting them, whether or not the persons are parties to an 418  
action pending in the division. 419

The board of county commissioners shall appropriate the sum 420

of money each year as will meet all the administrative expenses of 421  
the division of domestic relations, including reasonable expenses 422  
of the domestic relations judges and the division counselors and 423  
other employees designated to conduct the handling, servicing, and 424  
investigation of divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 425  
separation, and annulment cases, conciliation and counseling, and 426  
all matters relating to those cases and counseling, and the 427  
expenses involved in the attendance of division personnel at 428  
domestic relations and welfare conferences designated by the 429  
division, and the further sum each year as will provide for the 430  
adequate operation of the division of domestic relations. 431

The compensation and expenses of all employees and the salary 432  
and expenses of the judges shall be paid by the county treasurer 433  
from the money appropriated for the operation of the division, 434  
upon the warrant of the county auditor, certified to by the 435  
administrative judge of the division of domestic relations. 436

The summonses, warrants, citations, subpoenas, and other 437  
writs of the division may issue to a bailiff, constable, or staff 438  
investigator of the division or to the sheriff of any county or 439  
any marshal, constable, or police officer, and the provisions of 440  
law relating to the subpoenaing of witnesses in other cases shall 441  
apply insofar as they are applicable. When a summons, warrant, 442  
citation, subpoena, or other writ is issued to an officer, other 443  
than a bailiff, constable, or staff investigator of the division, 444  
the expense of serving it shall be assessed as a part of the costs 445  
in the case involved. 446

(3) The judge of the court of common pleas of Hamilton county 447  
whose term begins on January 3, 1997, and the successor to that 448  
judge whose term begins on January 3, 2003, shall each be elected 449  
and designated for one term only as the drug court judge of the 450  
court of common pleas of Hamilton county. The successors to the 451  
judge whose term begins on January 3, 2003, shall be elected and 452

designated as judges of the general division of the court of 453  
common pleas of Hamilton county and shall not have the authority 454  
granted by division (B)(3) of this section. The drug court judge 455  
may accept or reject any case referred to the drug court judge 456  
under division (B)(3) of this section. After the drug court judge 457  
accepts a referred case, the drug court judge has full authority 458  
over the case, including the authority to conduct arraignment, 459  
accept pleas, enter findings and dispositions, conduct trials, 460  
order treatment, and if treatment is not successfully completed 461  
pronounce and enter sentence. 462

A judge of the general division of the court of common pleas 463  
of Hamilton county and a judge of the Hamilton county municipal 464  
court may refer to the drug court judge any case, and any 465  
companion cases, the judge determines meet the criteria described 466  
under divisions (B)(3)(a) and (b) of this section. If the drug 467  
court judge accepts referral of a referred case, the case, and any 468  
companion cases, shall be transferred to the drug court judge. A 469  
judge may refer a case meeting the criteria described in divisions 470  
(B)(3)(a) and (b) of this section that involves a violation of a 471  
term of probation to the drug court judge, and, if the drug court 472  
judge accepts the referral, the referring judge and the drug court 473  
judge have concurrent jurisdiction over the case. 474

A judge of the general division of the court of common pleas 475  
of Hamilton county and a judge of the Hamilton county municipal 476  
court may refer a case to the drug court judge under division 477  
(B)(3) of this section if the judge determines that both of the 478  
following apply: 479

(a) One of the following applies: 480

(i) The case involves a drug abuse offense, as defined in 481  
section 2925.01 of the Revised Code, that is a felony of the third 482  
or fourth degree if the offense is committed prior to July 1, 483  
1996, a felony of the third, fourth, or fifth degree if the 484



offense is committed on or after July 1, 1996, or a misdemeanor. 485

(ii) The case involves a theft offense, as defined in section 486  
2913.01 of the Revised Code, that is a felony of the third or 487  
fourth degree if the offense is committed prior to July 1, 1996, a 488  
felony of the third, fourth, or fifth degree if the offense is 489  
committed on or after July 1, 1996, or a misdemeanor, and the 490  
defendant is drug or alcohol dependent or in danger of becoming 491  
drug or alcohol dependent and would benefit from treatment. 492

(b) All of the following apply: 493

(i) The case involves a probationable offense or a case in 494  
which a mandatory prison term is not required to be imposed. 495

(ii) The defendant has no history of violent behavior. 496

(iii) The defendant has no history of mental illness. 497

(iv) The defendant's current or past behavior, or both, is 498  
drug or alcohol driven. 499

(v) The defendant demonstrates a sincere willingness to 500  
participate in a fifteen-month treatment process. 501

(vi) The defendant has no acute health condition. 502

(vii) If the defendant is incarcerated, the county prosecutor 503  
approves of the referral. 504

(4) If the administrative judge of the court of common pleas 505  
of Hamilton county determines that the volume of cases pending 506  
before the drug court judge does not constitute a sufficient 507  
caseload for the drug court judge, the administrative judge, in 508  
accordance with the Rules of Superintendence for Courts of Common 509  
Pleas, shall assign individual cases to the drug court judge from 510  
the general docket of the court. If the assignments so occur, the 511  
administrative judge shall cease the assignments when the 512  
administrative judge determines that the volume of cases pending 513  
before the drug court judge constitutes a sufficient caseload for 514

the drug court judge. 515

(C) In Lorain county, the judges of the court of common pleas 516  
whose terms begin on January 3, 1959, January 4, 1989, and January 517  
2, 1999, and successors, shall have the same qualifications, 518  
exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same 519  
compensation as the other judges of the court of common pleas of 520  
Lorain county and shall be elected and designated as the judges of 521  
the court of common pleas, division of domestic relations. They 522  
shall have all of the powers relating to juvenile courts, and all 523  
cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, all 524  
parentage proceedings over which the juvenile court has 525  
jurisdiction, and all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 526  
separation, and annulment cases shall be assigned to them, except 527  
cases that for some special reason are assigned to some other 528  
judge of the court of common pleas. 529

(D) In Lucas county: 530

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin 531  
on January 1, 1955, and January 3, 1965, and successors, shall 532  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 533  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 534  
the court of common pleas of Lucas county and shall be elected and 535  
designated as judges of the court of common pleas, division of 536  
domestic relations. All divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 537  
separation, and annulment cases shall be assigned to them. 538

The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in 539  
point of service, shall be considered as the presiding judge of 540  
the court of common pleas, division of domestic relations, and 541  
shall be charged exclusively with the assignment and division of 542  
the work of the division and the employment and supervision of all 543  
other personnel of the domestic relations division. 544

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin 545

on January 5, 1977, and January 2, 1991, and successors shall have 546  
the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 547  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 548  
the court of common pleas of Lucas county, shall be elected and 549  
designated as judges of the court of common pleas, juvenile 550  
division, and shall be the juvenile judges as provided in Chapters 551  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code with the powers and 552  
jurisdictions conferred by those chapters. In addition to the 553  
judge's regular duties, the judge of the court of common pleas, 554  
juvenile division, senior in point of service, shall be the 555  
administrator of the juvenile division and its subdivisions and 556  
departments and shall have charge of the employment, assignment, 557  
and supervision of the personnel of the division engaged in 558  
handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile cases, including 559  
any referees considered necessary by the judges of the division in 560  
the discharge of their various duties. 561

The judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, 562  
senior in point of service, also shall designate the title, 563  
compensation, expense allowance, hours, leaves of absence, and 564  
vacation of the personnel of the division and shall fix the duties 565  
of the personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 566  
addition to other statutory duties include the handling, 567  
servicing, and investigation of juvenile cases and counseling and 568  
conciliation services that may be made available to persons 569  
requesting them, whether or not the persons are parties to an 570  
action pending in the division. 571

(3) If one of the judges of the court of common pleas, 572  
division of domestic relations, or one of the judges of the 573  
juvenile division is sick, absent, or unable to perform that 574  
judge's judicial duties or the volume of cases pending in that 575  
judge's division necessitates it, the duties shall be performed by 576  
the judges of the other of those divisions. 577

(E) In Mahoning county: 578

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term began 579  
on January 1, 1955, and successors, shall have the same 580  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 581  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 582  
common pleas of Mahoning county, shall be elected and designated 583  
as judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 584  
relations, and shall be assigned all the divorce, dissolution of 585  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases coming before the 586  
court. In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge of the 587  
court of common pleas, division of domestic relations, shall be 588  
the administrator of the domestic relations division and its 589  
subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of the 590  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 591  
division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating divorce, 592  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 593  
including any referees considered necessary in the discharge of 594  
the various duties of the judge's office. 595

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 596  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 597  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 598  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 599  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 600  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of marriage, 601  
legal separation, and annulment cases and counseling and 602  
conciliation services that may be made available to persons 603  
requesting them, whether or not the persons are parties to an 604  
action pending in the division. 605

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term began 606  
on January 2, 1969, and successors, shall have the same 607  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 608  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 609

common pleas of Mahoning county, shall be elected and designated 610  
as judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and 611  
shall be the juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 612  
2152. of the Revised Code, with the powers and jurisdictions 613  
conferred by those chapters. In addition to the judge's regular 614  
duties, the judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, 615  
shall be the administrator of the juvenile division and its 616  
subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of the 617  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 618  
division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile 619  
cases, including any referees considered necessary by the judge in 620  
the discharge of the judge's various duties. 621

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 622  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacation of the 623  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 624  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 625  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 626  
servicing, and investigation of juvenile cases and counseling and 627  
conciliation services that may be made available to persons 628  
requesting them, whether or not the persons are parties to an 629  
action pending in the division. 630

(3) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 631  
domestic relations or juvenile division, is sick, absent, or 632  
unable to perform that judge's judicial duties, or the volume of 633  
cases pending in that judge's division necessitates it, that 634  
judge's duties shall be performed by another judge of the court of 635  
common pleas. 636

(F) In Montgomery county: 637

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin 638  
on January 2, 1953, and January 4, 1977, and successors, shall 639  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 640  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 641

the court of common pleas of Montgomery county and shall be 642  
elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, 643  
division of domestic relations. These judges shall have assigned 644  
to them all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, 645  
and annulment cases. 646

The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in 647  
point of service, shall be charged exclusively with the assignment 648  
and division of the work of the division and shall have charge of 649  
the employment and supervision of the personnel of the division 650  
engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating divorce, 651  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 652  
including any necessary referees, except those employees who may 653  
be appointed by the judge, junior in point of service, under this 654  
section and sections 2301.12, 2301.18, and 2301.19 of the Revised 655  
Code. The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in 656  
point of service, also shall designate the title, compensation, 657  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacation of the 658  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. 659

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin 660  
on January 1, 1953, and January 1, 1993, and successors, shall 661  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 662  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 663  
the court of common pleas of Montgomery county, shall be elected 664  
and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, juvenile 665  
division, and shall be, and have the powers and jurisdiction of, 666  
the juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the 667  
Revised Code. 668

In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge of the 669  
court of common pleas, juvenile division, senior in point of 670  
service, shall be the administrator of the juvenile division and 671  
its subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of the 672  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 673

juvenile division, including any necessary referees, who are 674  
engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile cases. 675  
The judge, senior in point of service, also shall designate the 676  
title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, 677  
and vacation of the personnel of the division and shall fix their 678  
duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to other 679  
statutory duties, shall include the handling, servicing, and 680  
investigation of juvenile cases and of any counseling and 681  
conciliation services that are available upon request to persons, 682  
whether or not they are parties to an action pending in the 683  
division. 684

If one of the judges of the court of common pleas, division 685  
of domestic relations, or one of the judges of the court of common 686  
pleas, juvenile division, is sick, absent, or unable to perform 687  
that judge's duties or the volume of cases pending in that judge's 688  
division necessitates it, the duties of that judge may be 689  
performed by the judge or judges of the other of those divisions. 690

(G) In Richland county, the judge of the court of common 691  
pleas whose term begins on January 1, 1957, and successors, shall 692  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 693  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 694  
judges of the court of common pleas of Richland county and shall 695  
be elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 696  
division of domestic relations. That judge shall have all of the 697  
powers relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 698  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage proceedings 699  
over which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, and all divorce, 700  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 701  
shall be assigned to that judge, except in cases that for some 702  
special reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of 703  
common pleas. 704

(H) In Stark county, the judges of the court of common pleas 705

whose terms begin on January 1, 1953, January 2, 1959, and January 1, 1993, and successors, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of common pleas of Stark county and shall be elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, division of domestic relations. They shall have all the powers relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage proceedings over which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, and all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, except cases that are assigned to some other judge of the court of common pleas for some special reason, shall be assigned to the judges.

The judge of the division of domestic relations, second most senior in point of service, shall have charge of the employment and supervision of the personnel of the division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, and necessary referees required for the judge's respective court.

The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in point of service, shall be charged exclusively with the administration of sections 2151.13, 2151.16, 2151.17, and 2152.71 of the Revised Code and with the assignment and division of the work of the division and the employment and supervision of all other personnel of the division, including, but not limited to, that judge's necessary referees, but excepting those employees who may be appointed by the judge second most senior in point of service. The senior judge further shall serve in every other position in which the statutes permit or require a juvenile judge to serve.

(I) In Summit county:

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin



on January 4, 1967, and January 6, 1993, and successors, shall 738  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 739  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 740  
the court of common pleas of Summit county and shall be elected 741  
and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, division of 742  
domestic relations. The judges of the division of domestic 743  
relations shall have assigned to them and hear all divorce, 744  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 745  
that come before the court. Except in cases that are subject to 746  
the exclusive original jurisdiction of the juvenile court, the 747  
judges of the division of domestic relations shall have assigned 748  
to them and hear all cases pertaining to paternity, custody, 749  
visitation, child support, or the allocation of parental rights 750  
and responsibilities for the care of children and all post-decree 751  
proceedings arising from any case pertaining to any of those 752  
matters. The judges of the division of domestic relations shall 753  
have assigned to them and hear all proceedings under the uniform 754  
interstate family support act contained in Chapter 3115. of the 755  
Revised Code. 756

The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in 757  
point of service, shall be the administrator of the domestic 758  
relations division and its subdivisions and departments and shall 759  
have charge of the employment, assignment, and supervision of the 760  
personnel of the division, including any necessary referees, who 761  
are engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating divorce, 762  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases. 763  
That judge also shall designate the title, compensation, expense 764  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 765  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The duties 766  
of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, shall 767  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 768  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and 769  
of any counseling and conciliation services that are available 770

upon request to all persons, whether or not they are parties to an 771  
action pending in the division. 772

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term begins 773  
on January 1, 1955, and successors, shall have the same 774  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 775  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 776  
common pleas of Summit county, shall be elected and designated as 777  
judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and shall 778  
be, and have the powers and jurisdiction of, the juvenile judge as 779  
provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code. Except 780  
in cases that are subject to the exclusive original jurisdiction 781  
of the juvenile court, the judge of the juvenile division shall 782  
not have jurisdiction or the power to hear, and shall not be 783  
assigned, any case pertaining to paternity, custody, visitation, 784  
child support, or the allocation of parental rights and 785  
responsibilities for the care of children or any post-decree 786  
proceeding arising from any case pertaining to any of those 787  
matters. The judge of the juvenile division shall not have 788  
jurisdiction or the power to hear, and shall not be assigned, any 789  
proceeding under the uniform interstate family support act 790  
contained in Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code. 791

The juvenile judge shall be the administrator of the juvenile 792  
division and its subdivisions and departments and shall have 793  
charge of the employment, assignment, and supervision of the 794  
personnel of the juvenile division, including any necessary 795  
referees, who are engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating 796  
juvenile cases. The judge also shall designate the title, 797  
compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and 798  
vacation of the personnel of the division and shall fix their 799  
duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to other 800  
statutory duties, shall include the handling, servicing, and 801  
investigation of juvenile cases and of any counseling and 802

conciliation services that are available upon request to persons, 803  
whether or not they are parties to an action pending in the 804  
division. 805

(J) In Trumbull county, the judges of the court of common 806  
pleas whose terms begin on January 1, 1953, and January 2, 1977, 807  
and successors, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the 808  
same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as 809  
other judges of the court of common pleas of Trumbull county and 810  
shall be elected and designated as judges of the court of common 811  
pleas, division of domestic relations. They shall have all the 812  
powers relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 813  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage proceedings 814  
over which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, and all divorce, 815  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 816  
shall be assigned to them, except cases that for some special 817  
reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of common 818  
pleas. 819

(K) In Butler county: 820

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin 821  
on January 1, 1957, and January 4, 1993, and successors, shall 822  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 823  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 824  
the court of common pleas of Butler county and shall be elected 825  
and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, division of 826  
domestic relations. The judges of the division of domestic 827  
relations shall have assigned to them all divorce, dissolution of 828  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases coming before the 829  
court, except in cases that for some special reason are assigned 830  
to some other judge of the court of common pleas. The judge senior 831  
in point of service shall be charged with the assignment and 832  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 833  
supervision of all other personnel of the domestic relations 834

division. 835

The judge senior in point of service also shall designate the 836  
title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, 837  
and vacations of the personnel of the division and shall fix their 838  
duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to other 839  
statutory duties, shall include the handling, servicing, and 840  
investigation of divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 841  
separation, and annulment cases and providing any counseling and 842  
conciliation services that the division makes available to 843  
persons, whether or not the persons are parties to an action 844  
pending in the division, who request the services. 845

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin 846  
on January 3, 1987, and January 2, 2003, and successors, shall 847  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 848  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 849  
the court of common pleas of Butler county, shall be elected and 850  
designated as judges of the court of common pleas, juvenile 851  
division, and shall be the juvenile judges as provided in Chapters 852  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, with the powers and 853  
jurisdictions conferred by those chapters. The judge of the court 854  
of common pleas, juvenile division, who is senior in point of 855  
service, shall be the administrator of the juvenile division and 856  
its subdivisions and departments. The judge, senior in point of 857  
service, shall have charge of the employment, assignment, and 858  
supervision of the personnel of the juvenile division who are 859  
engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile cases, 860  
including any referees whom the judge considers necessary for the 861  
discharge of the judge's various duties. 862

The judge, senior in point of service, also shall designate 863  
the title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of 864  
absence, and vacation of the personnel of the division and shall 865  
fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to 866

other statutory duties, include the handling, servicing, and 867  
investigation of juvenile cases and providing any counseling and 868  
conciliation services that the division makes available to 869  
persons, whether or not the persons are parties to an action 870  
pending in the division, who request the services. 871

(3) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 872  
domestic relations or juvenile division, is sick, absent, or 873  
unable to perform that judge's judicial duties or the volume of 874  
cases pending in the judge's division necessitates it, the duties 875  
of that judge shall be performed by the other judges of the 876  
domestic relations and juvenile divisions. 877

(L)(1) In Cuyahoga county, the judges of the court of common 878  
pleas whose terms begin on January 8, 1961, January 9, 1961, 879  
January 18, 1975, January 19, 1975, and January 13, 1987, and 880  
successors, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same 881  
powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as 882  
other judges of the court of common pleas of Cuyahoga county and 883  
shall be elected and designated as judges of the court of common 884  
pleas, division of domestic relations. They shall have all the 885  
powers relating to all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 886  
separation, and annulment cases, except in cases that are assigned 887  
to some other judge of the court of common pleas for some special 888  
reason. 889

(2) The administrative judge is administrator of the domestic 890  
relations division and its subdivisions and departments and has 891  
the following powers concerning division personnel: 892

(a) Full charge of the employment, assignment, and 893  
supervision; 894

(b) Sole determination of compensation, duties, expenses, 895  
allowances, hours, leaves, and vacations. 896

(3) "Division personnel" include persons employed or referees 897

engaged in hearing, servicing, investigating, counseling, or 898  
conciliating divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation 899  
and annulment matters. 900

(M) In Lake county: 901

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term begins 902  
on January 2, 1961, and successors, shall have the same 903  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 904  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court of 905  
common pleas of Lake county and shall be elected and designated as 906  
judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 907  
relations. The judge shall be assigned all the divorce, 908  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 909  
coming before the court, except in cases that for some special 910  
reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of common 911  
pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and division 912  
of the work of the division and with the employment and 913  
supervision of all other personnel of the domestic relations 914  
division. 915

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 916  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 917  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The duties 918  
of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, shall 919  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 920  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and 921  
providing any counseling and conciliation services that the 922  
division makes available to persons, whether or not the persons 923  
are parties to an action pending in the division, who request the 924  
services. 925

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term begins 926  
on January 4, 1979, and successors, shall have the same 927  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 928  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 929

common pleas of Lake county, shall be elected and designated as 930  
judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and shall 931  
be the juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of 932  
the Revised Code, with the powers and jurisdictions conferred by 933  
those chapters. The judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile 934  
division, shall be the administrator of the juvenile division and 935  
its subdivisions and departments. The judge shall have charge of 936  
the employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of 937  
the juvenile division who are engaged in handling, servicing, or 938  
investigating juvenile cases, including any referees whom the 939  
judge considers necessary for the discharge of the judge's various 940  
duties. 941

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 942  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacation of the 943  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The duties 944  
of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, include 945  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of juvenile cases and 946  
providing any counseling and conciliation services that the 947  
division makes available to persons, whether or not the persons 948  
are parties to an action pending in the division, who request the 949  
services. 950

(3) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 951  
domestic relations or juvenile division, is sick, absent, or 952  
unable to perform that judge's judicial duties or the volume of 953  
cases pending in the judge's division necessitates it, the duties 954  
of that judge shall be performed by the other judges of the 955  
domestic relations and juvenile divisions. 956

(N) In Erie county, ~~the~~: 957

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term begins 958  
on January 2, 1971, and the successors to that judge whose terms 959  
begin before January 2, 2007, shall have the same qualifications, 960  
exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same 961

compensation as the other judge of the court of common pleas of 962  
Erie county and shall be elected and designated as judge of the 963  
court of common pleas, division of domestic relations. The judge 964  
shall have all the powers relating to juvenile courts, and shall 965  
be assigned all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the 966  
Revised Code, parentage proceedings over which the juvenile court 967  
has jurisdiction, and divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 968  
separation, and annulment cases, except cases that for some 969  
special reason are assigned to some other judge. 970

On or after January 2, 2007, the judge of the court of common 971  
pleas who is elected in 2006 shall be the successor to the judge 972  
of the domestic relations division whose term expires on January 973  
1, 2007, shall be designated as judge of the court of common 974  
pleas, juvenile division, and shall be the juvenile judge as 975  
provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code with the 976  
powers and jurisdictions conferred by those chapters. 977

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas, general division, 978  
whose term begins on January 1, 2005, and successors, the judge of 979  
the court of common pleas, general division whose term begins on 980  
January 2, 2005, and successors, and the judge of the court of 981  
common pleas, general division, whose term begins February 9, 982  
2009, and successors, shall have assigned to them, in addition to 983  
all matters that are within the jurisdiction of the general 984  
division of the court of common pleas, all divorce, dissolution of 985  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases coming before the 986  
court, and all matters that are within the jurisdiction of the 987  
probate court under Chapter 2101., and other provisions, of the 988  
Revised Code. 989

(0) In Greene county: 990

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term begins 991  
on January 1, 1961, and successors, shall have the same 992  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 993



receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court of 994  
common pleas of Greene county and shall be elected and designated 995  
as the judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 996  
relations. The judge shall be assigned all divorce, dissolution of 997  
marriage, legal separation, annulment, uniform reciprocal support 998  
enforcement, and domestic violence cases and all other cases 999  
related to domestic relations, except cases that for some special 1000  
reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of common 1001  
pleas. 1002

The judge shall be charged with the assignment and division 1003  
of the work of the division and with the employment and 1004  
supervision of all other personnel of the division. The judge also 1005  
shall designate the title, compensation, hours, leaves of absence, 1006  
and vacations of the personnel of the division and shall fix their 1007  
duties. The duties of the personnel of the division, in addition 1008  
to other statutory duties, shall include the handling, servicing, 1009  
and investigation of divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1010  
separation, and annulment cases and the provision of counseling 1011  
and conciliation services that the division considers necessary 1012  
and makes available to persons who request the services, whether 1013  
or not the persons are parties in an action pending in the 1014  
division. The compensation for the personnel shall be paid from 1015  
the overall court budget and shall be included in the 1016  
appropriations for the existing judges of the general division of 1017  
the court of common pleas. 1018

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term begins 1019  
on January 1, 1995, and successors, shall have the same 1020  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1021  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court of 1022  
common pleas of Greene county, shall be elected and designated as 1023  
judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and, on or 1024  
after January 1, 1995, shall be the juvenile judge as provided in 1025

Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code with the powers and 1026  
jurisdiction conferred by those chapters. The judge of the court 1027  
of common pleas, juvenile division, shall be the administrator of 1028  
the juvenile division and its subdivisions and departments. The 1029  
judge shall have charge of the employment, assignment, and 1030  
supervision of the personnel of the juvenile division who are 1031  
engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile cases, 1032  
including any referees whom the judge considers necessary for the 1033  
discharge of the judge's various duties. 1034

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1035  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacation of the 1036  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The duties 1037  
of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, include 1038  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of juvenile cases and 1039  
providing any counseling and conciliation services that the court 1040  
makes available to persons, whether or not the persons are parties 1041  
to an action pending in the court, who request the services. 1042

(3) If one of the judges of the court of common pleas, 1043  
general division, is sick, absent, or unable to perform that 1044  
judge's judicial duties or the volume of cases pending in the 1045  
general division necessitates it, the duties of that judge of the 1046  
general division shall be performed by the judge of the division 1047  
of domestic relations and the judge of the juvenile division. 1048

(P) In Portage county, the judge of the court of common 1049  
pleas, whose term begins January 2, 1987, and successors, shall 1050  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1051  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1052  
judges of the court of common pleas of Portage county and shall be 1053  
elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1054  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1055  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment 1056  
cases coming before the court, except in cases that for some 1057

special reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of 1058  
common pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and 1059  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 1060  
supervision of all other personnel of the domestic relations 1061  
division. 1062

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1063  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1064  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The duties 1065  
of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, shall 1066  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 1067  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and 1068  
providing any counseling and conciliation services that the 1069  
division makes available to persons, whether or not the persons 1070  
are parties to an action pending in the division, who request the 1071  
services. 1072

(Q) In Clermont county, the judge of the court of common 1073  
pleas, whose term begins January 2, 1987, and successors, shall 1074  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1075  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1076  
judges of the court of common pleas of Clermont county and shall 1077  
be elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1078  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1079  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment 1080  
cases coming before the court, except in cases that for some 1081  
special reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of 1082  
common pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and 1083  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 1084  
supervision of all other personnel of the domestic relations 1085  
division. 1086

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1087  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1088  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The duties 1089

of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, shall 1090  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 1091  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and 1092  
providing any counseling and conciliation services that the 1093  
division makes available to persons, whether or not the persons 1094  
are parties to an action pending in the division, who request the 1095  
services. 1096

(R) In Warren county, the judge of the court of common pleas, 1097  
whose term begins January 1, 1987, and successors, shall have the 1098  
same qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, 1099  
and receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 1100  
of common pleas of Warren county and shall be elected and 1101  
designated as judge of the court of common pleas, division of 1102  
domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all divorce, 1103  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 1104  
coming before the court, except in cases that for some special 1105  
reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of common 1106  
pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and division 1107  
of the work of the division and with the employment and 1108  
supervision of all other personnel of the domestic relations 1109  
division. 1110

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1111  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1112  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The duties 1113  
of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, shall 1114  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 1115  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and 1116  
providing any counseling and conciliation services that the 1117  
division makes available to persons, whether or not the persons 1118  
are parties to an action pending in the division, who request the 1119  
services. 1120

(S) In Licking county, the judge of the court of common 1121

pleas, whose term begins January 1, 1991, and successors, shall 1122  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1123  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1124  
judges of the court of common pleas of Licking county and shall be 1125  
elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1126  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1127  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment 1128  
cases, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, 1129  
all proceedings involving child support, the allocation of 1130  
parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children and 1131  
the designation for the children of a place of residence and legal 1132  
custodian, parenting time, and visitation, and all post-decree 1133  
proceedings and matters arising from those cases and proceedings, 1134  
except in cases that for some special reason are assigned to 1135  
another judge of the court of common pleas. The judge shall be 1136  
charged with the assignment and division of the work of the 1137  
division and with the employment and supervision of the personnel 1138  
of the division. 1139

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1140  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1141  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1142  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel of the 1143  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include the 1144  
handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 1145  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, cases arising 1146  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and proceedings involving 1147  
child support, the allocation of parental rights and 1148  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation for 1149  
the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 1150  
parenting time, and visitation and providing any counseling and 1151  
conciliation services that the division makes available to 1152  
persons, whether or not the persons are parties to an action 1153  
pending in the division, who request the services. 1154

(T) In Allen county, the judge of the court of common pleas, 1155  
whose term begins January 1, 1993, and successors, shall have the 1156  
same qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, 1157  
and receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 1158  
of common pleas of Allen county and shall be elected and 1159  
designated as judge of the court of common pleas, division of 1160  
domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all divorce, 1161  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1162  
all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, all 1163  
proceedings involving child support, the allocation of parental 1164  
rights and responsibilities for the care of children and the 1165  
designation for the children of a place of residence and legal 1166  
custodian, parenting time, and visitation, and all post-decree 1167  
proceedings and matters arising from those cases and proceedings, 1168  
except in cases that for some special reason are assigned to 1169  
another judge of the court of common pleas. The judge shall be 1170  
charged with the assignment and division of the work of the 1171  
division and with the employment and supervision of the personnel 1172  
of the division. 1173

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1174  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1175  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1176  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel of the 1177  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include the 1178  
handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 1179  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, cases arising 1180  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and proceedings involving 1181  
child support, the allocation of parental rights and 1182  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation for 1183  
the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 1184  
parenting time, and visitation, and providing any counseling and 1185  
conciliation services that the division makes available to 1186

persons, whether or not the persons are parties to an action 1187  
pending in the division, who request the services. 1188

(U) In Medina county, the judge of the court of common pleas 1189  
whose term begins January 1, 1995, and successors, shall have the 1190  
same qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, 1191  
and receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 1192  
common pleas of Medina county and shall be elected and designated 1193  
as judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 1194  
relations. The judge shall be assigned all divorce, dissolution of 1195  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, all cases arising 1196  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, all proceedings involving 1197  
child support, the allocation of parental rights and 1198  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation for 1199  
the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 1200  
parenting time, and visitation, and all post-decree proceedings 1201  
and matters arising from those cases and proceedings, except in 1202  
cases that for some special reason are assigned to another judge 1203  
of the court of common pleas. The judge shall be charged with the 1204  
assignment and division of the work of the division and with the 1205  
employment and supervision of the personnel of the division. 1206

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1207  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1208  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1209  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 1210  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 1211  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of marriage, 1212  
legal separation, and annulment cases, cases arising under Chapter 1213  
3111. of the Revised Code, and proceedings involving child 1214  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 1215  
for the care of children and the designation for the children of a 1216  
place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 1217  
visitation, and providing counseling and conciliation services 1218

that the division makes available to persons, whether or not the 1219  
persons are parties to an action pending in the division, who 1220  
request the services. 1221

(V) In Fairfield county, the judge of the court of common 1222  
pleas whose term begins January 2, 1995, and successors, shall 1223  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1224  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1225  
judges of the court of common pleas of Fairfield county and shall 1226  
be elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1227  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1228  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment 1229  
cases, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, 1230  
all proceedings involving child support, the allocation of 1231  
parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children and 1232  
the designation for the children of a place of residence and legal 1233  
custodian, parenting time, and visitation, and all post-decree 1234  
proceedings and matters arising from those cases and proceedings, 1235  
except in cases that for some special reason are assigned to 1236  
another judge of the court of common pleas. The judge also has 1237  
concurrent jurisdiction with the probate-juvenile division of the 1238  
court of common pleas of Fairfield county with respect to and may 1239  
hear cases to determine the custody of a child, as defined in 1240  
section 2151.011 of the Revised Code, who is not the ward of 1241  
another court of this state, cases that are commenced by a parent, 1242  
guardian, or custodian of a child, as defined in section 2151.011 1243  
of the Revised Code, to obtain an order requiring a parent of the 1244  
child to pay child support for that child when the request for 1245  
that order is not ancillary to an action for divorce, dissolution 1246  
of marriage, annulment, or legal separation, a criminal or civil 1247  
action involving an allegation of domestic violence, an action for 1248  
support under Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code, or an action that 1249  
is within the exclusive original jurisdiction of the 1250  
probate-juvenile division of the court of common pleas of 1251



Fairfield county and that involves an allegation that the child is 1252  
an abused, neglected, or dependent child, and post-decree 1253  
proceedings and matters arising from those types of cases. 1254

The judge of the domestic relations division shall be charged 1255  
with the assignment and division of the work of the division and 1256  
with the employment and supervision of the personnel of the 1257  
division. 1258

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1259  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1260  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1261  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel of the 1262  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include the 1263  
handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 1264  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, cases arising 1265  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and proceedings involving 1266  
child support, the allocation of parental rights and 1267  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation for 1268  
the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 1269  
parenting time, and visitation, and providing any counseling and 1270  
conciliation services that the division makes available to 1271  
persons, regardless of whether the persons are parties to an 1272  
action pending in the division, who request the services. When the 1273  
judge hears a case to determine the custody of a child, as defined 1274  
in section 2151.011 of the Revised Code, who is not the ward of 1275  
another court of this state or a case that is commenced by a 1276  
parent, guardian, or custodian of a child, as defined in section 1277  
2151.011 of the Revised Code, to obtain an order requiring a 1278  
parent of the child to pay child support for that child when the 1279  
request for that order is not ancillary to an action for divorce, 1280  
dissolution of marriage, annulment, or legal separation, a 1281  
criminal or civil action involving an allegation of domestic 1282  
violence, an action for support under Chapter 3115. of the Revised 1283

Code, or an action that is within the exclusive original 1284  
jurisdiction of the probate-juvenile division of the court of 1285  
common pleas of Fairfield county and that involves an allegation 1286  
that the child is an abused, neglected, or dependent child, the 1287  
duties of the personnel of the domestic relations division also 1288  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of those types 1289  
of cases. 1290

(W)(1) In Clark county, the judge of the court of common 1291  
pleas whose term begins on January 2, 1995, and successors, shall 1292  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1293  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 1294  
the court of common pleas of Clark county and shall be elected and 1295  
designated as judge of the court of common pleas, domestic 1296  
relations division. The judge shall have all the powers relating 1297  
to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. 1298  
of the Revised Code and all parentage proceedings under Chapter 1299  
3111. of the Revised Code over which the juvenile court has 1300  
jurisdiction shall be assigned to the judge of the division of 1301  
domestic relations. All divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1302  
separation, annulment, uniform reciprocal support enforcement, and 1303  
other cases related to domestic relations shall be assigned to the 1304  
domestic relations division, and the presiding judge of the court 1305  
of common pleas shall assign the cases to the judge of the 1306  
domestic relations division and the judges of the general 1307  
division. 1308

(2) In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge of 1309  
the division of domestic relations shall serve on the children 1310  
services board and the county advisory board. 1311

(3) If the judge of the court of common pleas of Clark 1312  
county, division of domestic relations, is sick, absent, or unable 1313  
to perform that judge's judicial duties or if the presiding judge 1314  
of the court of common pleas of Clark county determines that the 1315

volume of cases pending in the division of domestic relations 1316  
necessitates it, the duties of the judge of the division of 1317  
domestic relations shall be performed by the judges of the general 1318  
division or probate division of the court of common pleas of Clark 1319  
county, as assigned for that purpose by the presiding judge of 1320  
that court, and the judges so assigned shall act in conjunction 1321  
with the judge of the division of domestic relations of that 1322  
court. 1323

(X) In Scioto county, the judge of the court of common pleas 1324  
whose term begins January 2, 1995, and successors, shall have the 1325  
same qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, 1326  
and receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 1327  
common pleas of Scioto county and shall be elected and designated 1328  
as judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 1329  
relations. The judge shall be assigned all divorce, dissolution of 1330  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, all cases arising 1331  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, all proceedings involving 1332  
child support, the allocation of parental rights and 1333  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation for 1334  
the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 1335  
parenting time, visitation, and all post-decree proceedings and 1336  
matters arising from those cases and proceedings, except in cases 1337  
that for some special reason are assigned to another judge of the 1338  
court of common pleas. The judge shall be charged with the 1339  
assignment and division of the work of the division and with the 1340  
employment and supervision of the personnel of the division. 1341

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1342  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1343  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1344  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 1345  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 1346  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of marriage, 1347

legal separation, and annulment cases, cases arising under Chapter 1348  
3111. of the Revised Code, and proceedings involving child 1349  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 1350  
for the care of children and the designation for the children of a 1351  
place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 1352  
visitation, and providing counseling and conciliation services 1353  
that the division makes available to persons, whether or not the 1354  
persons are parties to an action pending in the division, who 1355  
request the services. 1356

(Y) In Auglaize county, the judge of the probate and juvenile 1357  
divisions of the Auglaize county court of common pleas also shall 1358  
be the administrative judge of the domestic relations division of 1359  
the court and shall be assigned all divorce, dissolution of 1360  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases coming before the 1361  
court. The judge shall have all powers as administrator of the 1362  
domestic relations division and shall have charge of the personnel 1363  
engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating divorce, 1364  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1365  
including any referees considered necessary for the discharge of 1366  
the judge's various duties. 1367

(Z)(1) In Marion county, the judge of the court of common 1368  
pleas whose term begins on February 9, 1999, and the successors to 1369  
that judge, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same 1370  
powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the 1371  
other judges of the court of common pleas of Marion county and 1372  
shall be elected and designated as judge of the court of common 1373  
pleas, domestic relations-juvenile-probate division. Except as 1374  
otherwise specified in this division, that judge, and the 1375  
successors to that judge, shall have all the powers relating to 1376  
juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of 1377  
the Revised Code, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the 1378  
Revised Code, all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1379

separation, and annulment cases, all proceedings involving child 1380  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 1381  
for the care of children and the designation for the children of a 1382  
place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 1383  
visitation, and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising 1384  
from those cases and proceedings shall be assigned to that judge 1385  
and the successors to that judge. Except as provided in division 1386  
(Z)(2) of this section and notwithstanding any other provision of 1387  
any section of the Revised Code, on and after February 9, 2003, 1388  
the judge of the court of common pleas of Marion county whose term 1389  
begins on February 9, 1999, and the successors to that judge, 1390  
shall have all the powers relating to the probate division of the 1391  
court of common pleas of Marion county in addition to the powers 1392  
previously specified in this division, and shall exercise 1393  
concurrent jurisdiction with the judge of the probate division of 1394  
that court over all matters that are within the jurisdiction of 1395  
the probate division of that court under Chapter 2101., and other 1396  
provisions, of the Revised Code in addition to the jurisdiction of 1397  
the domestic relations-juvenile-probate division of that court 1398  
otherwise specified in division (Z)(1) of this section. 1399

(2) The judge of the domestic relations-juvenile-probate 1400  
division of the court of common pleas of Marion county or the 1401  
judge of the probate division of the court of common pleas of 1402  
Marion county, whichever of those judges is senior in total length 1403  
of service on the court of common pleas of Marion county, 1404  
regardless of the division or divisions of service, shall serve as 1405  
the clerk of the probate division of the court of common pleas of 1406  
Marion county. 1407

(3) On and after February 9, 2003, all references in law to 1408  
"the probate court," "the probate judge," "the juvenile court," or 1409  
"the judge of the juvenile court" shall be construed, with respect 1410  
to Marion county, as being references to both "the probate 1411

division" and "the domestic relations-juvenile-probate division" 1412  
and as being references to both "the judge of the probate 1413  
division" and "the judge of the domestic relations- 1414  
juvenile-probate division." On and after February 9, 2003, all 1415  
references in law to "the clerk of the probate court" shall be 1416  
construed, with respect to Marion county, as being references to 1417  
the judge who is serving pursuant to division (Z)(2) of this 1418  
section as the clerk of the probate division of the court of 1419  
common pleas of Marion county. 1420

(AA) In Muskingum county, the judge of the court of common 1421  
pleas whose term begins on January 2, 2003, and successors, shall 1422  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1423  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1424  
judges of the court of common pleas of Muskingum county and shall 1425  
be elected and designated as the judge of the court of common 1426  
pleas, division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned 1427  
and hear all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, 1428  
and annulment cases and all proceedings under the uniform 1429  
interstate family support act contained in Chapter 3115. of the 1430  
Revised Code. Except in cases that are subject to the exclusive 1431  
original jurisdiction of the juvenile court, the judge shall be 1432  
assigned and hear all cases pertaining to paternity, visitation, 1433  
child support, the allocation of parental rights and 1434  
responsibilities for the care of children, and the designation for 1435  
the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, and all 1436  
post-decree proceedings arising from any case pertaining to any of 1437  
those matters. 1438

(BB) In Henry county, the judge of the court of common pleas 1439  
whose term begins on January 1, 2005, and successors, shall have 1440  
the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1441  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other judge 1442  
of the court of common pleas of Henry county and shall be elected 1443

and designated as the judge of the court of common pleas, division 1444  
of domestic relations. The judge shall have all of the powers 1445  
relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapter 2151. or 1446  
2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage proceedings arising under 1447  
Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code over which the juvenile court 1448  
has jurisdiction, all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1449  
separation, and annulment cases, all proceedings involving child 1450  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 1451  
for the care of children and the designation for the children of a 1452  
place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 1453  
visitation, and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising 1454  
from those cases and proceedings shall be assigned to that judge, 1455  
except in cases that for some special reason are assigned to the 1456  
other judge of the court of common pleas. 1457

(CC)(1) In Logan county, the judge of the court of common 1458  
pleas whose term begins January 2, 2005, and the successors to 1459  
that judge, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same 1460  
powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the 1461  
other judges of the court of common pleas of Logan county and 1462  
shall be elected and designated as judge of the court of common 1463  
pleas, domestic relations-juvenile-probate division. Except as 1464  
otherwise specified in this division, that judge, and the 1465  
successors to that judge, shall have all the powers relating to 1466  
juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of 1467  
the Revised Code, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the 1468  
Revised Code, all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1469  
separation, and annulment cases, all proceedings involving child 1470  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 1471  
for the care of children and designation for the children of a 1472  
place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 1473  
visitation, and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising 1474  
from those cases and proceedings shall be assigned to that judge 1475  
and the successors to that judge. Notwithstanding any other 1476

provision of any section of the Revised Code, on and after January 1477  
2, 2005, the judge of the court of common pleas of Logan county 1478  
whose term begins on January 2, 2005, and the successors to that 1479  
judge, shall have all the powers relating to the probate division 1480  
of the court of common pleas of Logan county in addition to the 1481  
powers previously specified in this division and shall exercise 1482  
concurrent jurisdiction with the judge of the probate division of 1483  
that court over all matters that are within the jurisdiction of 1484  
the probate division of that court under Chapter 2101., and other 1485  
provisions, of the Revised Code in addition to the jurisdiction of 1486  
the domestic relations-juvenile-probate division of that court 1487  
otherwise specified in division (CC)(1) of this section. 1488

(2) The judge of the domestic relations-juvenile-probate 1489  
division of the court of common pleas of Logan county or the 1490  
probate judge of the court of common pleas of Logan county who is 1491  
elected as the administrative judge of the probate division of the 1492  
court of common pleas of Logan county pursuant to Rule 4 of the 1493  
Rules of Superintendence shall be the clerk of the probate 1494  
division and juvenile division of the court of common pleas of 1495  
Logan county. The clerk of the court of common pleas who is 1496  
elected pursuant to section 2303.01 of the Revised Code shall keep 1497  
all of the journals, records, books, papers, and files pertaining 1498  
to the domestic relations cases. 1499

(3) On and after January 2, 2005, all references in law to 1500  
"the probate court," "the probate judge," "the juvenile court," or 1501  
"the judge of the juvenile court" shall be construed, with respect 1502  
to Logan county, as being references to both "the probate 1503  
division" and the "domestic relations-juvenile-probate division" 1504  
and as being references to both "the judge of the probate 1505  
division" and the "judge of the domestic 1506  
relations-juvenile-probate division." On and after January 2, 1507  
2005, all references in law to "the clerk of the probate court" 1508



shall be construed, with respect to Logan county, as being 1509  
references to the judge who is serving pursuant to division 1510  
(CC)(2) of this section as the clerk of the probate division of 1511  
the court of common pleas of Logan county. 1512

(DD) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 1513  
domestic relations, or juvenile judge, of any of the counties 1514  
mentioned in this section is sick, absent, or unable to perform 1515  
that judge's judicial duties or the volume of cases pending in the 1516  
judge's division necessitates it, the duties of that judge shall 1517  
be performed by another judge of the court of common pleas of that 1518  
county, assigned for that purpose by the presiding judge of the 1519  
court of common pleas of that county to act in place of or in 1520  
conjunction with that judge, as the case may require. 1521

**Sec. 3501.38.** All declarations of candidacy, nominating 1522  
petitions, or other petitions presented to or filed with the 1523  
secretary of state or a board of elections or with any other 1524  
public office for the purpose of becoming a candidate for any 1525  
nomination or office or for the holding of an election on any 1526  
issue shall, in addition to meeting the other specific 1527  
requirements prescribed in the sections of the Revised Code 1528  
relating to them, be governed by the following rules: 1529

(A) Only electors qualified to vote on the candidacy or issue 1530  
which is the subject of the petition shall sign a petition. Each 1531  
signer shall be a registered elector pursuant to section 3503.11 1532  
of the Revised Code. The facts of qualification shall be 1533  
determined as of the date when the petition is filed. 1534

(B) Signatures shall be affixed in ink. Each signer may also 1535  
print the signer's name, so as to clearly identify the signer's 1536  
signature. 1537

(C) Each signer shall place on the petition after the 1538

signer's name the date of signing and the location of the signer's 1539  
voting residence, including the street and number if in a 1540  
municipal corporation or the rural route number, post office 1541  
address, or township if outside a municipal corporation. The 1542  
voting address given on the petition shall be the address 1543  
appearing in the registration records at the board of elections. 1544

(D) No person shall write any name other than the person's 1545  
own on any petition. No person may authorize another to sign for 1546  
the person. Where a petition contains the signature of an elector 1547  
two or more times, only the first signature shall be counted. 1548

(E) On each petition paper, the circulator shall indicate the 1549  
number of signatures contained on it, and shall sign a statement 1550  
made under penalty of election falsification that the circulator 1551  
witnessed the affixing of every signature, that all signers were 1552  
to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief qualified to 1553  
sign, and that every signature is to the best of the circulator's 1554  
knowledge and belief the signature of the person whose signature 1555  
it purports to be. 1556

(F) If a circulator knowingly permits an unqualified person 1557  
to sign a petition paper or permits a person to write a name other 1558  
than the person's own on a petition paper, that petition paper is 1559  
invalid; otherwise, the signature of a person not qualified to 1560  
sign shall be rejected but shall not invalidate the other valid 1561  
signatures on the paper. 1562

(G) The circulator of a petition may, before filing it in a 1563  
public office, strike from it any signature the circulator does 1564  
not wish to present as a part of the petition. 1565

(H) Any signer of a petition may remove the signer's 1566  
signature from that petition at any time before the petition is 1567  
filed in a public office by striking the signer's name from the 1568  
petition; no signature may be removed after the petition is filed 1569

in any public office. 1570

(I)(1) No alterations, corrections, or additions may be made 1571  
to a petition after it is filed in a public office. 1572

(2) No petition may be withdrawn after it is filed in a 1573  
public office. Nothing in this division prohibits a person from 1574  
withdrawing as a candidate as otherwise provided by law. 1575

(J) All declarations of candidacy, nominating petitions, or 1576  
other petitions under this section shall be accompanied by the 1577  
following statement in boldface capital letters: WHOEVER COMMITS 1578  
ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE. 1579

(K) All separate petition papers shall be filed at the same 1580  
time, as one instrument. 1581

(L) If a board of elections distributes for use a petition 1582  
form for a declaration of candidacy, nominating petition, 1583  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or any type of 1584  
question or issue petition that does not satisfy the requirements 1585  
of law as of the date of that distribution, and if that petition 1586  
form is subsequently filed with the board within ninety days of 1587  
when the petition is required to be filed, the board shall not 1588  
invalidate the petition on the basis that the petition form does 1589  
not satisfy the requirements of law, if the petition otherwise is 1590  
valid. Division (L) of this section does not apply if the 1591  
candidate fails to file the petition with the board within ninety 1592  
days of when the petition is required to be filed. 1593

**Section 2.** That existing sections 2151.07, 2301.02, 2301.03, 1594  
and 3501.38 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 1595

**Section 3.** That the version of section 2301.03 of the Revised 1596  
Code that is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2004, be amended 1597  
to read as follows: 1598

**Sec. 2301.03.** (A) In Franklin county, the judges of the court  
of common pleas whose terms begin on January 1, 1953, January 2,  
1953, January 5, 1969, January 5, 1977, and January 2, 1997, and  
successors, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same  
powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as  
other judges of the court of common pleas of Franklin county and  
shall be elected and designated as judges of the court of common  
pleas, division of domestic relations. They shall have all the  
powers relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage proceedings  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code over which the juvenile  
court has jurisdiction, and all divorce, dissolution of marriage,  
legal separation, and annulment cases shall be assigned to them.  
In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge who is senior  
in point of service shall serve on the children services board and  
the county advisory board and shall be the administrator of the  
domestic relations division and its subdivisions and departments.

(B) In Hamilton county:

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas, whose term begins  
on January 1, 1957, and successors, and the judge of the court of  
common pleas, whose term begins on February 14, 1967, and  
successors, shall be the juvenile judges as provided in Chapters  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, with the powers and  
jurisdiction conferred by those chapters.

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin  
on January 5, 1957, January 16, 1981, and July 1, 1991, and  
successors, shall be elected and designated as judges of the court  
of common pleas, division of domestic relations, and shall have  
assigned to them all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal  
separation, and annulment cases coming before the court. On or

after the first day of July and before the first day of August of 1630  
1991 and each year thereafter, a majority of the judges of the 1631  
division of domestic relations shall elect one of the judges of 1632  
the division as administrative judge of that division. If a 1633  
majority of the judges of the division of domestic relations are 1634  
unable for any reason to elect an administrative judge for the 1635  
division before the first day of August, a majority of the judges 1636  
of the Hamilton county court of common pleas, as soon as possible 1637  
after that date, shall elect one of the judges of the division of 1638  
domestic relations as administrative judge of that division. The 1639  
term of the administrative judge shall begin on the earlier of the 1640  
first day of August of the year in which the administrative judge 1641  
is elected or the date on which the administrative judge is 1642  
elected by a majority of the judges of the Hamilton county court 1643  
of common pleas and shall terminate on the date on which the 1644  
administrative judge's successor is elected in the following year. 1645

In addition to the judge's regular duties, the administrative 1646  
judge of the division of domestic relations shall be the 1647  
administrator of the domestic relations division and its 1648  
subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of the 1649  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 1650  
division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating divorce, 1651  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1652  
including any referees considered necessary by the judges in the 1653  
discharge of their various duties. 1654

The administrative judge of the division of domestic 1655  
relations also shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1656  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1657  
personnel of the division, and shall fix the duties of its 1658  
personnel. The duties of the personnel, in addition to those 1659  
provided for in other sections of the Revised Code, shall include 1660  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution 1661

of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and counseling 1662  
and conciliation services that may be made available to persons 1663  
requesting them, whether or not the persons are parties to an 1664  
action pending in the division. 1665

The board of county commissioners shall appropriate the sum 1666  
of money each year as will meet all the administrative expenses of 1667  
the division of domestic relations, including reasonable expenses 1668  
of the domestic relations judges and the division counselors and 1669  
other employees designated to conduct the handling, servicing, and 1670  
investigation of divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1671  
separation, and annulment cases, conciliation and counseling, and 1672  
all matters relating to those cases and counseling, and the 1673  
expenses involved in the attendance of division personnel at 1674  
domestic relations and welfare conferences designated by the 1675  
division, and the further sum each year as will provide for the 1676  
adequate operation of the division of domestic relations. 1677

The compensation and expenses of all employees and the salary 1678  
and expenses of the judges shall be paid by the county treasurer 1679  
from the money appropriated for the operation of the division, 1680  
upon the warrant of the county auditor, certified to by the 1681  
administrative judge of the division of domestic relations. 1682

The summonses, warrants, citations, subpoenas, and other 1683  
writs of the division may issue to a bailiff, constable, or staff 1684  
investigator of the division or to the sheriff of any county or 1685  
any marshal, constable, or police officer, and the provisions of 1686  
law relating to the subpoenaing of witnesses in other cases shall 1687  
apply insofar as they are applicable. When a summons, warrant, 1688  
citation, subpoena, or other writ is issued to an officer, other 1689  
than a bailiff, constable, or staff investigator of the division, 1690  
the expense of serving it shall be assessed as a part of the costs 1691  
in the case involved. 1692

(3) The judge of the court of common pleas of Hamilton county 1693

whose term begins on January 3, 1997, and the successor to that 1694  
judge whose term begins on January 3, 2003, shall each be elected 1695  
and designated for one term only as the drug court judge of the 1696  
court of common pleas of Hamilton county. The successors to the 1697  
judge whose term begins on January 3, 2003, shall be elected and 1698  
designated as judges of the general division of the court of 1699  
common pleas of Hamilton county and shall not have the authority 1700  
granted by division (B)(3) of this section. The drug court judge 1701  
may accept or reject any case referred to the drug court judge 1702  
under division (B)(3) of this section. After the drug court judge 1703  
accepts a referred case, the drug court judge has full authority 1704  
over the case, including the authority to conduct arraignment, 1705  
accept pleas, enter findings and dispositions, conduct trials, 1706  
order treatment, and if treatment is not successfully completed 1707  
pronounce and enter sentence. 1708

A judge of the general division of the court of common pleas 1709  
of Hamilton county and a judge of the Hamilton county municipal 1710  
court may refer to the drug court judge any case, and any 1711  
companion cases, the judge determines meet the criteria described 1712  
under divisions (B)(3)(a) and (b) of this section. If the drug 1713  
court judge accepts referral of a referred case, the case, and any 1714  
companion cases, shall be transferred to the drug court judge. A 1715  
judge may refer a case meeting the criteria described in divisions 1716  
(B)(3)(a) and (b) of this section that involves a violation of a 1717  
condition of a community control sanction to the drug court judge, 1718  
and, if the drug court judge accepts the referral, the referring 1719  
judge and the drug court judge have concurrent jurisdiction over 1720  
the case. 1721

A judge of the general division of the court of common pleas 1722  
of Hamilton county and a judge of the Hamilton county municipal 1723  
court may refer a case to the drug court judge under division 1724  
(B)(3) of this section if the judge determines that both of the 1725

following apply:	1726
(a) One of the following applies:	1727
(i) The case involves a drug abuse offense, as defined in section 2925.01 of the Revised Code, that is a felony of the third or fourth degree if the offense is committed prior to July 1, 1996, a felony of the third, fourth, or fifth degree if the offense is committed on or after July 1, 1996, or a misdemeanor.	1728 1729 1730 1731 1732
(ii) The case involves a theft offense, as defined in section 2913.01 of the Revised Code, that is a felony of the third or fourth degree if the offense is committed prior to July 1, 1996, a felony of the third, fourth, or fifth degree if the offense is committed on or after July 1, 1996, or a misdemeanor, and the defendant is drug or alcohol dependent or in danger of becoming drug or alcohol dependent and would benefit from treatment.	1733 1734 1735 1736 1737 1738 1739
(b) All of the following apply:	1740
(i) The case involves an offense for which a community control sanction may be imposed or is a case in which a mandatory prison term or a mandatory jail term is not required to be imposed.	1741 1742 1743 1744
(ii) The defendant has no history of violent behavior.	1745
(iii) The defendant has no history of mental illness.	1746
(iv) The defendant's current or past behavior, or both, is drug or alcohol driven.	1747 1748
(v) The defendant demonstrates a sincere willingness to participate in a fifteen-month treatment process.	1749 1750
(vi) The defendant has no acute health condition.	1751
(vii) If the defendant is incarcerated, the county prosecutor approves of the referral.	1752 1753
(4) If the administrative judge of the court of common pleas	1754



of Hamilton county determines that the volume of cases pending 1755  
before the drug court judge does not constitute a sufficient 1756  
caseload for the drug court judge, the administrative judge, in 1757  
accordance with the Rules of Superintendence for Courts of Common 1758  
Pleas, shall assign individual cases to the drug court judge from 1759  
the general docket of the court. If the assignments so occur, the 1760  
administrative judge shall cease the assignments when the 1761  
administrative judge determines that the volume of cases pending 1762  
before the drug court judge constitutes a sufficient caseload for 1763  
the drug court judge. 1764

(5) As used in division (B) of this section, "community 1765  
control sanction," "mandatory prison term," and "mandatory jail 1766  
term" have the same meanings as in section 2929.01 of the Revised 1767  
Code. 1768

(C) In Lorain county, the judges of the court of common pleas 1769  
whose terms begin on January 3, 1959, January 4, 1989, and January 1770  
2, 1999, and successors, shall have the same qualifications, 1771  
exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same 1772  
compensation as the other judges of the court of common pleas of 1773  
Lorain county and shall be elected and designated as the judges of 1774  
the court of common pleas, division of domestic relations. They 1775  
shall have all of the powers relating to juvenile courts, and all 1776  
cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, all 1777  
parentage proceedings over which the juvenile court has 1778  
jurisdiction, and all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1779  
separation, and annulment cases shall be assigned to them, except 1780  
cases that for some special reason are assigned to some other 1781  
judge of the court of common pleas. 1782

(D) In Lucas county: 1783

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin 1784  
on January 1, 1955, and January 3, 1965, and successors, shall 1785  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1786

jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 1787  
the court of common pleas of Lucas county and shall be elected and 1788  
designated as judges of the court of common pleas, division of 1789  
domestic relations. All divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1790  
separation, and annulment cases shall be assigned to them. 1791

The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in 1792  
point of service, shall be considered as the presiding judge of 1793  
the court of common pleas, division of domestic relations, and 1794  
shall be charged exclusively with the assignment and division of 1795  
the work of the division and the employment and supervision of all 1796  
other personnel of the domestic relations division. 1797

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin 1798  
on January 5, 1977, and January 2, 1991, and successors shall have 1799  
the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1800  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 1801  
the court of common pleas of Lucas county, shall be elected and 1802  
designated as judges of the court of common pleas, juvenile 1803  
division, and shall be the juvenile judges as provided in Chapters 1804  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code with the powers and 1805  
jurisdictions conferred by those chapters. In addition to the 1806  
judge's regular duties, the judge of the court of common pleas, 1807  
juvenile division, senior in point of service, shall be the 1808  
administrator of the juveniledivision and its subdivisions and 1809  
departments and shall have charge of the employment, assignment, 1810  
and supervision of the personnel of the division engaged in 1811  
handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile cases, including 1812  
any referees considered necessary by the judges of the division in 1813  
the discharge of their various duties. 1814

The judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, 1815  
senior in point of service, also shall designate the title, 1816  
compensation, expense allowance, hours, leaves of absence, and 1817  
vacation of the personnel of the division and shall fix the duties 1818

of the personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 1819  
addition to other statutory duties include the handling, 1820  
servicing, and investigation of juvenile cases and counseling and 1821  
conciliation services that may be made available to persons 1822  
requesting them, whether or not the persons are parties to an 1823  
action pending in the division. 1824

(3) If one of the judges of the court of common pleas, 1825  
division of domestic relations, or one of the judges of the 1826  
juvenile division is sick, absent, or unable to perform that 1827  
judge's judicial duties or the volume of cases pending in that 1828  
judge's division necessitates it, the duties shall be performed by 1829  
the judges of the other of those divisions. 1830

(E) In Mahoning county: 1831

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term began 1832  
on January 1, 1955, and successors, shall have the same 1833  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1834  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 1835  
common pleas of Mahoning county, shall be elected and designated 1836  
as judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 1837  
relations, and shall be assigned all the divorce, dissolution of 1838  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases coming before the 1839  
court. In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge of the 1840  
court of common pleas, division of domestic relations, shall be 1841  
the administrator of the domestic relations division and its 1842  
subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of the 1843  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 1844  
division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating divorce, 1845  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1846  
including any referees considered necessary in the discharge of 1847  
the various duties of the judge's office. 1848

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1849  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1850

personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1851  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 1852  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 1853  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of marriage, 1854  
legal separation, and annulment cases and counseling and 1855  
conciliation services that may be made available to persons 1856  
requesting them, whether or not the persons are parties to an 1857  
action pending in the division. 1858

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term began 1859  
on January 2, 1969, and successors, shall have the same 1860  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1861  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 1862  
common pleas of Mahoning county, shall be elected and designated 1863  
as judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and 1864  
shall be the juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 1865  
2152. of the Revised Code, with the powers and jurisdictions 1866  
conferred by those chapters. In addition to the judge's regular 1867  
duties, the judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, 1868  
shall be the administrator of the juvenile division and its 1869  
subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of the 1870  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 1871  
division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile 1872  
cases, including any referees considered necessary by the judge in 1873  
the discharge of the judge's various duties. 1874

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1875  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacation of the 1876  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1877  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 1878  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 1879  
servicing, and investigation of juvenile cases and counseling and 1880  
conciliation services that may be made available to persons 1881  
requesting them, whether or not the persons are parties to an 1882

action pending in the division. 1883

(3) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 1884  
domestic relations or juvenile division, is sick, absent, or 1885  
unable to perform that judge's judicial duties, or the volume of 1886  
cases pending in that judge's division necessitates it, that 1887  
judge's duties shall be performed by another judge of the court of 1888  
common pleas. 1889

(F) In Montgomery county: 1890

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin 1891  
on January 2, 1953, and January 4, 1977, and successors, shall 1892  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1893  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 1894  
the court of common pleas of Montgomery county and shall be 1895  
elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, 1896  
division of domestic relations. These judges shall have assigned 1897  
to them all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, 1898  
and annulment cases. 1899

The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in 1900  
point of service, shall be charged exclusively with the assignment 1901  
and division of the work of the division and shall have charge of 1902  
the employment and supervision of the personnel of the division 1903  
engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating divorce, 1904  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1905  
including any necessary referees, except those employees who may 1906  
be appointed by the judge, junior in point of service, under this 1907  
section and sections 2301.12, 2301.18, and 2301.19 of the Revised 1908  
Code. The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in 1909  
point of service, also shall designate the title, compensation, 1910  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacation of the 1911  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. 1912

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin 1913

on January 1, 1953, and January 1, 1993, and successors, shall 1914  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1915  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 1916  
the court of common pleas of Montgomery county, shall be elected 1917  
and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, juvenile 1918  
division, and shall be, and have the powers and jurisdiction of, 1919  
the juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the 1920  
Revised Code. 1921

In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge of the 1922  
court of common pleas, juvenile division, senior in point of 1923  
service, shall be the administrator of the juvenile division and 1924  
its subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of the 1925  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 1926  
juvenile division, including any necessary referees, who are 1927  
engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile cases. 1928  
The judge, senior in point of service, also shall designate the 1929  
title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, 1930  
and vacation of the personnel of the division and shall fix their 1931  
duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to other 1932  
statutory duties, shall include the handling, servicing, and 1933  
investigation of juvenile cases and of any counseling and 1934  
conciliation services that are available upon request to persons, 1935  
whether or not they are parties to an action pending in the 1936  
division. 1937

If one of the judges of the court of common pleas, division 1938  
of domestic relations, or one of the judges of the court of common 1939  
pleas, juvenile division, is sick, absent, or unable to perform 1940  
that judge's duties or the volume of cases pending in that judge's 1941  
division necessitates it, the duties of that judge may be 1942  
performed by the judge or judges of the other of those divisions. 1943

(G) In Richland county, the judge of the court of common 1944  
pleas whose term begins on January 1, 1957, and successors, shall 1945

have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1946  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1947  
judges of the court of common pleas of Richland county and shall 1948  
be elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1949  
division of domestic relations. That judge shall have all of the 1950  
powers relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 1951  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage proceedings 1952  
over which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, and all divorce, 1953  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 1954  
shall be assigned to that judge, except in cases that for some 1955  
special reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of 1956  
common pleas. 1957

(H) In Stark county, the judges of the court of common pleas 1958  
whose terms begin on January 1, 1953, January 2, 1959, and January 1959  
1, 1993, and successors, shall have the same qualifications, 1960  
exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same 1961  
compensation as other judges of the court of common pleas of Stark 1962  
county and shall be elected and designated as judges of the court 1963  
of common pleas, division of domestic relations. They shall have 1964  
all the powers relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under 1965  
Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage 1966  
proceedings over which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, and 1967  
all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1968  
annulment cases, except cases that are assigned to some other 1969  
judge of the court of common pleas for some special reason, shall 1970  
be assigned to the judges. 1971

The judge of the division of domestic relations, second most 1972  
senior in point of service, shall have charge of the employment 1973  
and supervision of the personnel of the division engaged in 1974  
handling, servicing, or investigating divorce, dissolution of 1975  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, and necessary 1976  
referees required for the judge's respective court. 1977

The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in point of service, shall be charged exclusively with the administration of sections 2151.13, 2151.16, 2151.17, and 2152.71 of the Revised Code and with the assignment and division of the work of the division and the employment and supervision of all other personnel of the division, including, but not limited to, that judge's necessary referees, but excepting those employees who may be appointed by the judge second most senior in point of service. The senior judge further shall serve in every other position in which the statutes permit or require a juvenile judge to serve.

(I) In Summit county:

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin on January 4, 1967, and January 6, 1993, and successors, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of common pleas of Summit county and shall be elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, division of domestic relations. The judges of the division of domestic relations shall have assigned to them and hear all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases that come before the court. Except in cases that are subject to the exclusive original jurisdiction of the juvenile court, the judges of the division of domestic relations shall have assigned to them and hear all cases pertaining to paternity, custody, visitation, child support, or the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children and all post-decree proceedings arising from any case pertaining to any of those matters. The judges of the division of domestic relations shall have assigned to them and hear all proceedings under the uniform interstate family support act contained in Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code.



The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in point of service, shall be the administrator of the domestic relations division and its subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of the employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the division, including any necessary referees, who are engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases. That judge also shall designate the title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and of any counseling and conciliation services that are available upon request to all persons, whether or not they are parties to an action pending in the division.

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term begins on January 1, 1955, and successors, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of common pleas of Summit county, shall be elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and shall be, and have the powers and jurisdiction of, the juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code. Except in cases that are subject to the exclusive original jurisdiction of the juvenile court, the judge of the juvenile division shall not have jurisdiction or the power to hear, and shall not be assigned, any case pertaining to paternity, custody, visitation, child support, or the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children or any post-decree proceeding arising from any case pertaining to any of those matters. The judge of the juvenile division shall not have

jurisdiction or the power to hear, and shall not be assigned, any 2042  
proceeding under the uniform interstate family support act 2043  
contained in Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code. 2044

The juvenile judge shall be the administrator of the juvenile 2045  
division and its subdivisions and departments and shall have 2046  
charge of the employment, assignment, and supervision of the 2047  
personnel of the juvenile division, including any necessary 2048  
referees, who are engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating 2049  
juvenile cases. The judge also shall designate the title, 2050  
compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and 2051  
vacation of the personnel of the division and shall fix their 2052  
duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to other 2053  
statutory duties, shall include the handling, servicing, and 2054  
investigation of juvenile cases and of any counseling and 2055  
conciliation services that are available upon request to persons, 2056  
whether or not they are parties to an action pending in the 2057  
division. 2058

(J) In Trumbull county, the judges of the court of common 2059  
pleas whose terms begin on January 1, 1953, and January 2, 1977, 2060  
and successors, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the 2061  
same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as 2062  
other judges of the court of common pleas of Trumbull county and 2063  
shall be elected and designated as judges of the court of common 2064  
pleas, division of domestic relations. They shall have all the 2065  
powers relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2066  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage proceedings 2067  
over which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, and all divorce, 2068  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 2069  
shall be assigned to them, except cases that for some special 2070  
reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of common 2071  
pleas. 2072

(K) In Butler county: 2073

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin 2074  
on January 1, 1957, and January 4, 1993, and successors, shall 2075  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 2076  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 2077  
the court of common pleas of Butler county and shall be elected 2078  
and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, division of 2079  
domestic relations. The judges of the division of domestic 2080  
relations shall have assigned to them all divorce, dissolution of 2081  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases coming before the 2082  
court, except in cases that for some special reason are assigned 2083  
to some other judge of the court of common pleas. The judge senior 2084  
in point of service shall be charged with the assignment and 2085  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 2086  
supervision of all other personnel of the domestic relations 2087  
division. 2088

The judge senior in point of service also shall designate the 2089  
title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, 2090  
and vacations of the personnel of the division and shall fix their 2091  
duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to other 2092  
statutory duties, shall include the handling, servicing, and 2093  
investigation of divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 2094  
separation, and annulment cases and providing any counseling and 2095  
conciliation services that the division makes available to 2096  
persons, whether or not the persons are parties to an action 2097  
pending in the division, who request the services. 2098

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms begin 2099  
on January 3, 1987, and January 2, 2003, and successors, shall 2100  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 2101  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 2102  
the court of common pleas of Butler county, shall be elected and 2103  
designated as judges of the court of common pleas, juvenile 2104  
division, and shall be the juvenile judges as provided in Chapters 2105

2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, with the powers and 2106  
jurisdictions conferred by those chapters. The judge of the court 2107  
of common pleas, juvenile division, who is senior in point of 2108  
service, shall be the administrator of the juvenile division and 2109  
its subdivisions and departments. The judge, senior in point of 2110  
service, shall have charge of the employment, assignment, and 2111  
supervision of the personnel of the juvenile division who are 2112  
engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile cases, 2113  
including any referees whom the judge considers necessary for the 2114  
discharge of the judge's various duties. 2115

The judge, senior in point of service, also shall designate 2116  
the title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of 2117  
absence, and vacation of the personnel of the division and shall 2118  
fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to 2119  
other statutory duties, include the handling, servicing, and 2120  
investigation of juvenile cases and providing any counseling and 2121  
conciliation services that the division makes available to 2122  
persons, whether or not the persons are parties to an action 2123  
pending in the division, who request the services. 2124

(3) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 2125  
domestic relations or juvenile division, is sick, absent, or 2126  
unable to perform that judge's judicial duties or the volume of 2127  
cases pending in the judge's division necessitates it, the duties 2128  
of that judge shall be performed by the other judges of the 2129  
domestic relations and juvenile divisions. 2130

(L)(1) In Cuyahoga county, the judges of the court of common 2131  
pleas whose terms begin on January 8, 1961, January 9, 1961, 2132  
January 18, 1975, January 19, 1975, and January 13, 1987, and 2133  
successors, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same 2134  
powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as 2135  
other judges of the court of common pleas of Cuyahoga county and 2136  
shall be elected and designated as judges of the court of common 2137

pleas, division of domestic relations. They shall have all the 2138  
powers relating to all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 2139  
separation, and annulment cases, except in cases that are assigned 2140  
to some other judge of the court of common pleas for some special 2141  
reason. 2142

(2) The administrative judge is administrator of the domestic 2143  
relations division and its subdivisions and departments and has 2144  
the following powers concerning division personnel: 2145

(a) Full charge of the employment, assignment, and 2146  
supervision; 2147

(b) Sole determination of compensation, duties, expenses, 2148  
allowances, hours, leaves, and vacations. 2149

(3) "Division personnel" include persons employed or referees 2150  
engaged in hearing, servicing, investigating, counseling, or 2151  
conciliating divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation 2152  
and annulment matters. 2153

(M) In Lake county: 2154

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term begins 2155  
on January 2, 1961, and successors, shall have the same 2156  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 2157  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court of 2158  
common pleas of Lake county and shall be elected and designated as 2159  
judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 2160  
relations. The judge shall be assigned all the divorce, 2161  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 2162  
coming before the court, except in cases that for some special 2163  
reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of common 2164  
pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and division 2165  
of the work of the division and with the employment and 2166  
supervision of all other personnel of the domestic relations 2167  
division. 2168

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 2169  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 2170  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The duties 2171  
of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, shall 2172  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 2173  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and 2174  
providing any counseling and conciliation services that the 2175  
division makes available to persons, whether or not the persons 2176  
are parties to an action pending in the division, who request the 2177  
services. 2178

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term begins 2179  
on January 4, 1979, and successors, shall have the same 2180  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 2181  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 2182  
common pleas of Lake county, shall be elected and designated as 2183  
judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and shall 2184  
be the juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of 2185  
the Revised Code, with the powers and jurisdictions conferred by 2186  
those chapters. The judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile 2187  
division, shall be the administrator of the juvenile division and 2188  
its subdivisions and departments. The judge shall have charge of 2189  
the employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of 2190  
the juvenile division who are engaged in handling, servicing, or 2191  
investigating juvenile cases, including any referees whom the 2192  
judge considers necessary for the discharge of the judge's various 2193  
duties. 2194

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 2195  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacation of the 2196  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The duties 2197  
of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, include 2198  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of juvenile cases and 2199  
providing any counseling and conciliation services that the 2200

division makes available to persons, whether or not the persons 2201  
are parties to an action pending in the division, who request the 2202  
services. 2203

(3) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 2204  
domestic relations or juvenile division, is sick, absent, or 2205  
unable to perform that judge's judicial duties or the volume of 2206  
cases pending in the judge's division necessitates it, the duties 2207  
of that judge shall be performed by the other judges of the 2208  
domestic relations and juvenile divisions. 2209

(N) In Erie county, ~~the~~: 2210

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term begins 2211  
on January 2, 1971, and the successors to that judge whose terms 2212  
begin before January 2, 2007, shall have the same qualifications, 2213  
exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same 2214  
compensation as the other judge of the court of common pleas of 2215  
Erie county and shall be elected and designated as judge of the 2216  
court of common pleas, division of domestic relations. The judge 2217  
shall have all the powers relating to juvenile courts, and shall 2218  
be assigned all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the 2219  
Revised Code, parentage proceedings over which the juvenile court 2220  
has jurisdiction, and divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 2221  
separation, and annulment cases, except cases that for some 2222  
special reason are assigned to some other judge. 2223

On or after January 2, 2007, the judge of the court of common 2224  
pleas who is elected in 2006 shall be the successor to the judge 2225  
of the domestic relations division whose term expires on January 2226  
1, 2007, shall be designated as judge of the court of common 2227  
pleas, juvenile division, and shall be the juvenile judge as 2228  
provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code with the 2229  
powers and jurisdictions conferred by those chapters. 2230

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas, general division, 2231

whose term begins on January 1, 2005, and successors, the judge of 2232  
the court of common pleas, general division whose term begins on 2233  
January 2, 2005, and successors, and the judge of the court of 2234  
common pleas, general division, whose term begins February 9, 2235  
2009, and successors, shall have assigned to them, in addition to 2236  
all matters that are within the jurisdiction of the general 2237  
division of the court of common pleas, all divorce, dissolution of 2238  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases coming before the 2239  
court, and all matters that are within the jurisdiction of the 2240  
probate court under Chapter 2101., and other provisions, of the 2241  
Revised Code. 2242

(0) In Greene county: 2243

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term begins 2244  
on January 1, 1961, and successors, shall have the same 2245  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 2246  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court of 2247  
common pleas of Greene county and shall be elected and designated 2248  
as the judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 2249  
relations. The judge shall be assigned all divorce, dissolution of 2250  
marriage, legal separation, annulment, uniform reciprocal support 2251  
enforcement, and domestic violence cases and all other cases 2252  
related to domestic relations, except cases that for some special 2253  
reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of common 2254  
pleas. 2255

The judge shall be charged with the assignment and division 2256  
of the work of the division and with the employment and 2257  
supervision of all other personnel of the division. The judge also 2258  
shall designate the title, compensation, hours, leaves of absence, 2259  
and vacations of the personnel of the division and shall fix their 2260  
duties. The duties of the personnel of the division, in addition 2261  
to other statutory duties, shall include the handling, servicing, 2262  
and investigation of divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 2263



separation, and annulment cases and the provision of counseling 2264  
and conciliation services that the division considers necessary 2265  
and makes available to persons who request the services, whether 2266  
or not the persons are parties in an action pending in the 2267  
division. The compensation for the personnel shall be paid from 2268  
the overall court budget and shall be included in the 2269  
appropriations for the existing judges of the general division of 2270  
the court of common pleas. 2271

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term begins 2272  
on January 1, 1995, and successors, shall have the same 2273  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 2274  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court of 2275  
common pleas of Greene county, shall be elected and designated as 2276  
judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and, on or 2277  
after January 1, 1995, shall be the juvenile judge as provided in 2278  
Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code with the powers and 2279  
jurisdiction conferred by those chapters. The judge of the court 2280  
of common pleas, juvenile division, shall be the administrator of 2281  
the juvenile division and its subdivisions and departments. The 2282  
judge shall have charge of the employment, assignment, and 2283  
supervision of the personnel of the juvenile division who are 2284  
engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile cases, 2285  
including any referees whom the judge considers necessary for the 2286  
discharge of the judge's various duties. 2287

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 2288  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacation of the 2289  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The duties 2290  
of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, include 2291  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of juvenile cases and 2292  
providing any counseling and conciliation services that the court 2293  
makes available to persons, whether or not the persons are parties 2294  
to an action pending in the court, who request the services. 2295

(3) If one of the judges of the court of common pleas, 2296  
general division, is sick, absent, or unable to perform that 2297  
judge's judicial duties or the volume of cases pending in the 2298  
general division necessitates it, the duties of that judge of the 2299  
general division shall be performed by the judge of the division 2300  
of domestic relations and the judge of the juvenile division. 2301

(P) In Portage county, the judge of the court of common 2302  
pleas, whose term begins January 2, 1987, and successors, shall 2303  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 2304  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 2305  
judges of the court of common pleas of Portage county and shall be 2306  
elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 2307  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 2308  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment 2309  
cases coming before the court, except in cases that for some 2310  
special reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of 2311  
common pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and 2312  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 2313  
supervision of all other personnel of the domestic relations 2314  
division. 2315

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 2316  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 2317  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The duties 2318  
of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, shall 2319  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 2320  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and 2321  
providing any counseling and conciliation services that the 2322  
division makes available to persons, whether or not the persons 2323  
are parties to an action pending in the division, who request the 2324  
services. 2325

(Q) In Clermont county, the judge of the court of common 2326  
pleas, whose term begins January 2, 1987, and successors, shall 2327

have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 2328  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 2329  
judges of the court of common pleas of Clermont county and shall 2330  
be elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 2331  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 2332  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment 2333  
cases coming before the court, except in cases that for some 2334  
special reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of 2335  
common pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and 2336  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 2337  
supervision of all other personnel of the domestic relations 2338  
division. 2339

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 2340  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 2341  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The duties 2342  
of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, shall 2343  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 2344  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and 2345  
providing any counseling and conciliation services that the 2346  
division makes available to persons, whether or not the persons 2347  
are parties to an action pending in the division, who request the 2348  
services. 2349

(R) In Warren county, the judge of the court of common pleas, 2350  
whose term begins January 1, 1987, and successors, shall have the 2351  
same qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, 2352  
and receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 2353  
of common pleas of Warren county and shall be elected and 2354  
designated as judge of the court of common pleas, division of 2355  
domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all divorce, 2356  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 2357  
coming before the court, except in cases that for some special 2358  
reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of common 2359

pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and division 2360  
of the work of the division and with the employment and 2361  
supervision of all other personnel of the domestic relations 2362  
division. 2363

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 2364  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 2365  
personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The duties 2366  
of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, shall 2367  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 2368  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and 2369  
providing any counseling and conciliation services that the 2370  
division makes available to persons, whether or not the persons 2371  
are parties to an action pending in the division, who request the 2372  
services. 2373

(S) In Licking county, the judge of the court of common 2374  
pleas, whose term begins January 1, 1991, and successors, shall 2375  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 2376  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 2377  
judges of the court of common pleas of Licking county and shall be 2378  
elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 2379  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 2380  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment 2381  
cases, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, 2382  
all proceedings involving child support, the allocation of 2383  
parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children and 2384  
the designation for the children of a place of residence and legal 2385  
custodian, parenting time, and visitation, and all post-decree 2386  
proceedings and matters arising from those cases and proceedings, 2387  
except in cases that for some special reason are assigned to 2388  
another judge of the court of common pleas. The judge shall be 2389  
charged with the assignment and division of the work of the 2390  
division and with the employment and supervision of the personnel 2391

of the division. 2392

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 2393  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 2394  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 2395  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel of the 2396  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include the 2397  
handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 2398  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, cases arising 2399  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and proceedings involving 2400  
child support, the allocation of parental rights and 2401  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation for 2402  
the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 2403  
parenting time, and visitation and providing any counseling and 2404  
conciliation services that the division makes available to 2405  
persons, whether or not the persons are parties to an action 2406  
pending in the division, who request the services. 2407

(T) In Allen county, the judge of the court of common pleas, 2408  
whose term begins January 1, 1993, and successors, shall have the 2409  
same qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, 2410  
and receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 2411  
of common pleas of Allen county and shall be elected and 2412  
designated as judge of the court of common pleas, division of 2413  
domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all divorce, 2414  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 2415  
all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, all 2416  
proceedings involving child support, the allocation of parental 2417  
rights and responsibilities for the care of children and the 2418  
designation for the children of a place of residence and legal 2419  
custodian, parenting time, and visitation, and all post-decree 2420  
proceedings and matters arising from those cases and proceedings, 2421  
except in cases that for some special reason are assigned to 2422  
another judge of the court of common pleas. The judge shall be 2423

charged with the assignment and division of the work of the 2424  
division and with the employment and supervision of the personnel 2425  
of the division. 2426

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 2427  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 2428  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 2429  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel of the 2430  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include the 2431  
handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 2432  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, cases arising 2433  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and proceedings involving 2434  
child support, the allocation of parental rights and 2435  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation for 2436  
the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 2437  
parenting time, and visitation, and providing any counseling and 2438  
conciliation services that the division makes available to 2439  
persons, whether or not the persons are parties to an action 2440  
pending in the division, who request the services. 2441

(U) In Medina county, the judge of the court of common pleas 2442  
whose term begins January 1, 1995, and successors, shall have the 2443  
same qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, 2444  
and receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 2445  
common pleas of Medina county and shall be elected and designated 2446  
as judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 2447  
relations. The judge shall be assigned all divorce, dissolution of 2448  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, all cases arising 2449  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, all proceedings involving 2450  
child support, the allocation of parental rights and 2451  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation for 2452  
the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 2453  
parenting time, and visitation, and all post-decree proceedings 2454  
and matters arising from those cases and proceedings, except in 2455

cases that for some special reason are assigned to another judge 2456  
of the court of common pleas. The judge shall be charged with the 2457  
assignment and division of the work of the division and with the 2458  
employment and supervision of the personnel of the division. 2459

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 2460  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 2461  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 2462  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 2463  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 2464  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of marriage, 2465  
legal separation, and annulment cases, cases arising under Chapter 2466  
3111. of the Revised Code, and proceedings involving child 2467  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 2468  
for the care of children and the designation for the children of a 2469  
place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 2470  
visitation, and providing counseling and conciliation services 2471  
that the division makes available to persons, whether or not the 2472  
persons are parties to an action pending in the division, who 2473  
request the services. 2474

(V) In Fairfield county, the judge of the court of common 2475  
pleas whose term begins January 2, 1995, and successors, shall 2476  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 2477  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 2478  
judges of the court of common pleas of Fairfield county and shall 2479  
be elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 2480  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 2481  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment 2482  
cases, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, 2483  
all proceedings involving child support, the allocation of 2484  
parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children and 2485  
the designation for the children of a place of residence and legal 2486  
custodian, parenting time, and visitation, and all post-decree 2487

proceedings and matters arising from those cases and proceedings, 2488  
except in cases that for some special reason are assigned to 2489  
another judge of the court of common pleas. The judge also has 2490  
concurrent jurisdiction with the probate-juvenile division of the 2491  
court of common pleas of Fairfield county with respect to and may 2492  
hear cases to determine the custody of a child, as defined in 2493  
section 2151.011 of the Revised Code, who is not the ward of 2494  
another court of this state, cases that are commenced by a parent, 2495  
guardian, or custodian of a child, as defined in section 2151.011 2496  
of the Revised Code, to obtain an order requiring a parent of the 2497  
child to pay child support for that child when the request for 2498  
that order is not ancillary to an action for divorce, dissolution 2499  
of marriage, annulment, or legal separation, a criminal or civil 2500  
action involving an allegation of domestic violence, an action for 2501  
support under Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code, or an action that 2502  
is within the exclusive original jurisdiction of the 2503  
probate-juvenile division of the court of common pleas of 2504  
Fairfield county and that involves an allegation that the child is 2505  
an abused, neglected, or dependent child, and post-decree 2506  
proceedings and matters arising from those types of cases. 2507

The judge of the domestic relations division shall be charged 2508  
with the assignment and division of the work of the division and 2509  
with the employment and supervision of the personnel of the 2510  
division. 2511

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 2512  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 2513  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 2514  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel of the 2515  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include the 2516  
handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 2517  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, cases arising 2518  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and proceedings involving 2519



child support, the allocation of parental rights and 2520  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation for 2521  
the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 2522  
parenting time, and visitation, and providing any counseling and 2523  
conciliation services that the division makes available to 2524  
persons, regardless of whether the persons are parties to an 2525  
action pending in the division, who request the services. When the 2526  
judge hears a case to determine the custody of a child, as defined 2527  
in section 2151.011 of the Revised Code, who is not the ward of 2528  
another court of this state or a case that is commenced by a 2529  
parent, guardian, or custodian of a child, as defined in section 2530  
2151.011 of the Revised Code, to obtain an order requiring a 2531  
parent of the child to pay child support for that child when the 2532  
request for that order is not ancillary to an action for divorce, 2533  
dissolution of marriage, annulment, or legal separation, a 2534  
criminal or civil action involving an allegation of domestic 2535  
violence, an action for support under Chapter 3115. of the Revised 2536  
Code, or an action that is within the exclusive original 2537  
jurisdiction of the probate-juvenile division of the court of 2538  
common pleas of Fairfield county and that involves an allegation 2539  
that the child is an abused, neglected, or dependent child, the 2540  
duties of the personnel of the domestic relations division also 2541  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of those types 2542  
of cases. 2543

(W)(1) In Clark county, the judge of the court of common 2544  
pleas whose term begins on January 2, 1995, and successors, shall 2545  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 2546  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges of 2547  
the court of common pleas of Clark county and shall be elected and 2548  
designated as judge of the court of common pleas, domestic 2549  
relations division. The judge shall have all the powers relating 2550  
to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. 2551  
of the Revised Code and all parentage proceedings under Chapter 2552

3111. of the Revised Code over which the juvenile court has 2553  
jurisdiction shall be assigned to the judge of the division of 2554  
domestic relations. All divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 2555  
separation, annulment, uniform reciprocal support enforcement, and 2556  
other cases related to domestic relations shall be assigned to the 2557  
domestic relations division, and the presiding judge of the court 2558  
of common pleas shall assign the cases to the judge of the 2559  
domestic relations division and the judges of the general 2560  
division. 2561

(2) In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge of 2562  
the division of domestic relations shall serve on the children 2563  
services board and the county advisory board. 2564

(3) If the judge of the court of common pleas of Clark 2565  
county, division of domestic relations, is sick, absent, or unable 2566  
to perform that judge's judicial duties or if the presiding judge 2567  
of the court of common pleas of Clark county determines that the 2568  
volume of cases pending in the division of domestic relations 2569  
necessitates it, the duties of the judge of the division of 2570  
domestic relations shall be performed by the judges of the general 2571  
division or probate division of the court of common pleas of Clark 2572  
county, as assigned for that purpose by the presiding judge of 2573  
that court, and the judges so assigned shall act in conjunction 2574  
with the judge of the division of domestic relations of that 2575  
court. 2576

(X) In Scioto county, the judge of the court of common pleas 2577  
whose term begins January 2, 1995, and successors, shall have the 2578  
same qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, 2579  
and receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 2580  
common pleas of Scioto county and shall be elected and designated 2581  
as judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 2582  
relations. The judge shall be assigned all divorce, dissolution of 2583  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, all cases arising 2584

under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, all proceedings involving 2585  
child support, the allocation of parental rights and 2586  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation for 2587  
the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 2588  
parenting time, visitation, and all post-decree proceedings and 2589  
matters arising from those cases and proceedings, except in cases 2590  
that for some special reason are assigned to another judge of the 2591  
court of common pleas. The judge shall be charged with the 2592  
assignment and division of the work of the division and with the 2593  
employment and supervision of the personnel of the division. 2594

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 2595  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 2596  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 2597  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 2598  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 2599  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of marriage, 2600  
legal separation, and annulment cases, cases arising under Chapter 2601  
3111. of the Revised Code, and proceedings involving child 2602  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 2603  
for the care of children and the designation for the children of a 2604  
place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 2605  
visitation, and providing counseling and conciliation services 2606  
that the division makes available to persons, whether or not the 2607  
persons are parties to an action pending in the division, who 2608  
request the services. 2609

(Y) In Auglaize county, the judge of the probate and juvenile 2610  
divisions of the Auglaize county court of common pleas also shall 2611  
be the administrative judge of the domestic relations division of 2612  
the court and shall be assigned all divorce, dissolution of 2613  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases coming before the 2614  
court. The judge shall have all powers as administrator of the 2615  
domestic relations division and shall have charge of the personnel 2616

engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating divorce, 2617  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 2618  
including any referees considered necessary for the discharge of 2619  
the judge's various duties. 2620

(Z)(1) In Marion county, the judge of the court of common 2621  
pleas whose term begins on February 9, 1999, and the successors to 2622  
that judge, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same 2623  
powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the 2624  
other judges of the court of common pleas of Marion county and 2625  
shall be elected and designated as judge of the court of common 2626  
pleas, domestic relations-juvenile-probate division. Except as 2627  
otherwise specified in this division, that judge, and the 2628  
successors to that judge, shall have all the powers relating to 2629  
juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of 2630  
the Revised Code, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the 2631  
Revised Code, all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 2632  
separation, and annulment cases, all proceedings involving child 2633  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 2634  
for the care of children and the designation for the children of a 2635  
place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 2636  
visitation, and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising 2637  
from those cases and proceedings shall be assigned to that judge 2638  
and the successors to that judge. Except as provided in division 2639  
(Z)(2) of this section and notwithstanding any other provision of 2640  
any section of the Revised Code, on and after February 9, 2003, 2641  
the judge of the court of common pleas of Marion county whose term 2642  
begins on February 9, 1999, and the successors to that judge, 2643  
shall have all the powers relating to the probate division of the 2644  
court of common pleas of Marion county in addition to the powers 2645  
previously specified in this division, and shall exercise 2646  
concurrent jurisdiction with the judge of the probate division of 2647  
that court over all matters that are within the jurisdiction of 2648  
the probate division of that court under Chapter 2101., and other 2649

provisions, of the Revised Code in addition to the jurisdiction of 2650  
the domestic relations-juvenile-probate division of that court 2651  
otherwise specified in division (Z)(1) of this section. 2652

(2) The judge of the domestic relations-juvenile-probate 2653  
division of the court of common pleas of Marion county or the 2654  
judge of the probate division of the court of common pleas of 2655  
Marion county, whichever of those judges is senior in total length 2656  
of service on the court of common pleas of Marion county, 2657  
regardless of the division or divisions of service, shall serve as 2658  
the clerk of the probate division of the court of common pleas of 2659  
Marion county. 2660

(3) On and after February 9, 2003, all references in law to 2661  
"the probate court," "the probate judge," "the juvenile court," or 2662  
"the judge of the juvenile court" shall be construed, with respect 2663  
to Marion county, as being references to both "the probate 2664  
division" and "the domestic relations-juvenile-probate division" 2665  
and as being references to both "the judge of the probate 2666  
division" and "the judge of the domestic relations- 2667  
juvenile-probate division." On and after February 9, 2003, all 2668  
references in law to "the clerk of the probate court" shall be 2669  
construed, with respect to Marion county, as being references to 2670  
the judge who is serving pursuant to division (Z)(2) of this 2671  
section as the clerk of the probate division of the court of 2672  
common pleas of Marion county. 2673

(AA) In Muskingum county, the judge of the court of common 2674  
pleas whose term begins on January 2, 2003, and successors, shall 2675  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 2676  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 2677  
judges of the court of common pleas of Muskingum county and shall 2678  
be elected and designated as the judge of the court of common 2679  
pleas, division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned 2680  
and hear all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, 2681

and annulment cases and all proceedings under the uniform 2682  
interstate family support act contained in Chapter 3115. of the 2683  
Revised Code. Except in cases that are subject to the exclusive 2684  
original jurisdiction of the juvenile court, the judge shall be 2685  
assigned and hear all cases pertaining to paternity, visitation, 2686  
child support, the allocation of parental rights and 2687  
responsibilities for the care of children, and the designation for 2688  
the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, and all 2689  
post-decree proceedings arising from any case pertaining to any of 2690  
those matters. 2691

(BB) In Henry county, the judge of the court of common pleas 2692  
whose term begins on January 1, 2005, and successors, shall have 2693  
the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 2694  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other judge 2695  
of the court of common pleas of Henry county and shall be elected 2696  
and designated as the judge of the court of common pleas, division 2697  
of domestic relations. The judge shall have all of the powers 2698  
relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapter 2151. or 2699  
2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage proceedings arising under 2700  
Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code over which the juvenile court 2701  
has jurisdiction, all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 2702  
separation, and annulment cases, all proceedings involving child 2703  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 2704  
for the care of children and the designation for the children of a 2705  
place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 2706  
visitation, and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising 2707  
from those cases and proceedings shall be assigned to that judge, 2708  
except in cases that for some special reason are assigned to the 2709  
other judge of the court of common pleas. 2710

(CC)(1) In Logan county, the judge of the court of common 2711  
pleas whose term begins January 2, 2005, and the successors to 2712  
that judge, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same 2713

powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the 2714  
other judges of the court of common pleas of Logan county and 2715  
shall be elected and designated as judge of the court of common 2716  
pleas, domestic relations-juvenile-probate division. Except as 2717  
otherwise specified in this division, that judge, and the 2718  
successors to that judge, shall have all the powers relating to 2719  
juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of 2720  
the Revised Code, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the 2721  
Revised Code, all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 2722  
separation, and annulment cases, all proceedings involving child 2723  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 2724  
for the care of children and designation for the children of a 2725  
place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 2726  
visitation, and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising 2727  
from those cases and proceedings shall be assigned to that judge 2728  
and the successors to that judge. Notwithstanding any other 2729  
provision of any section of the Revised Code, on and after January 2730  
2, 2005, the judge of the court of common pleas of Logan county 2731  
whose term begins on January 2, 2005, and the successors to that 2732  
judge, shall have all the powers relating to the probate division 2733  
of the court of common pleas of Logan county in addition to the 2734  
powers previously specified in this division and shall exercise 2735  
concurrent jurisdiction with the judge of the probate division of 2736  
that court over all matters that are within the jurisdiction of 2737  
the probate division of that court under Chapter 2101., and other 2738  
provisions, of the Revised Code in addition to the jurisdiction of 2739  
the domestic relations-juvenile-probate division of that court 2740  
otherwise specified in division (CC)(1) of this section. 2741

(2) The judge of the domestic relations-juvenile-probate 2742  
division of the court of common pleas of Logan county or the 2743  
probate judge of the court of common pleas of Logan county who is 2744  
elected as the administrative judge of the probate division of the 2745  
court of common pleas of Logan county pursuant to Rule 4 of the 2746

Rules of Superintendence shall be the clerk of the probate 2747  
division and the juvenile division of the court of common pleas of 2748  
Logan county. The clerk of the court of common pleas who is 2749  
elected pursuant to section 2303.01 of the Revised Code shall keep 2750  
all of the journals, records, books, papers, and files pertaining 2751  
to domestic relations cases. 2752

(3) On and after January 2, 2005, all references in law to 2753  
"the probate court," "the probate judge," "the juvenile court," or 2754  
"the judge of the juvenile court" shall be construed, with respect 2755  
to Logan county, as being references to both "the probate 2756  
division" and the "domestic relations-juvenile-probate division" 2757  
and as being references to both "the judge of the probate 2758  
division" and the "judge of the domestic 2759  
relations-juvenile-probate division." On and after January 2, 2760  
2005, all references in law to "the clerk of the probate court" 2761  
shall be construed, with respect to Logan county, as being 2762  
references to the judge who is serving pursuant to division 2763  
(CC)(2) of this section as the clerk of the probate division of 2764  
the court of common pleas of Logan county. 2765

(DD) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 2766  
domestic relations, or juvenile judge, of any of the counties 2767  
mentioned in this section is sick, absent, or unable to perform 2768  
that judge's judicial duties or the volume of cases pending in the 2769  
judge's division necessitates it, the duties of that judge shall 2770  
be performed by another judge of the court of common pleas of that 2771  
county, assigned for that purpose by the presiding judge of the 2772  
court of common pleas of that county to act in place of or in 2773  
conjunction with that judge, as the case may require. 2774

**Section 4.** That the existing version of section 2301.03 of 2775  
the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2004, 2776  
is hereby repealed. 2777



**Section 5.** Sections 3 and 4 of this act take effect January 2778  
1, 2004. 2779

**Section 6.** Section 2301.02 of the Revised Code is presented 2780  
in this act as a composite of the section as amended by both Sub. 2781  
H.B. 26 and Am. Sub. H.B. 95 of the 125th General Assembly. The 2782  
General Assembly, applying the principle stated in division (B) of 2783  
section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments are to be 2784  
harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous operation, finds 2785  
that the composite is the resulting version of the section in 2786  
effect prior to the effective date of the section as presented in 2787  
this act. 2788

**Section 7.** Section 2301.03 of the Revised Code is presented 2789  
in Section 3 of this act as a composite of the section as amended 2790  
by Sub. H.B. 26 of the 125th General Assembly and Am. Sub. H.B. 2791  
490 and Am. Sub. H.B. 530, both of the 124th General Assembly. The 2792  
General Assembly, applying the principle stated in division (B) of 2793  
section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments are to be 2794  
harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous operation, finds 2795  
that the composite is the resulting version of the section in 2796  
effect prior to the effective date of the section as presented in 2797  
Section 3 of this act. 2798

**Section 8.** This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 2799  
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 2800  
peace, health, and safety. The reason for this necessity is that 2801  
it is crucial that this act be enacted into law at the earliest 2802  
possible time to enable candidates for the new judicial position 2803  
in the Erie County Court of Common Pleas that is created by this 2804  
act to timely file their declarations of candidacy and statements 2805  
of candidacy and nominating petitions. Therefore, this act shall 2806  
go into immediate effect. 2807