

1-2009

Helpful Resources for Handling a Domestic Relations Case

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Recommended Citation

Emily M. Janoski-Haehlen, *Helpful Resources for Handling a Domestic Relations Case*, Cincinnati Bar Association Report, Jan. 2009, at 13.

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Helpful Resources for Handling a Domestic Relations Case



By Emily M. Janoski-Haehlen

Domestic relations is an area of law where legal research can be tricky. Because most domestic relations legal disputes begin at the county level there are not many commercial resources available. In fact, computer assisted legal research systems like Lexis and Westlaw have limited coverage of domestic relations resources. Here are a few select domestic relations resources in Ohio that you might consider (see links below)

Domestic Relations Court Websites

The domestic relations courts in Ohio have websites designed to aid attorneys in preparing a domestic relations case. The websites provide forms, procedures, local rules, court information, domestic violence resources, and useful links to related websites. See below for many of Ohio's domestic relations court websites.

Cincinnati Law Library Association's Guide

The Cincinnati Law Library Association has published a domestic relations resource guide that includes recommended treatises, domestic relations laws in Ohio, forms, and links to the domestic relations court websites.

Ohio Family Law Blog

A useful resource for finding general background information about Ohio domestic relations law, this blog discusses current issues in Ohio family law.

Child Support Calculator

This online child support calculator might be useful to estimate the amount of child support owed in a particular case. The child support calculator is based on statutory guidelines for each state. The website allows you to choose the state you want to calculate child support for and input other information to determine the amount. The website includes a disclaimer that explains that the number calculated is only an estimate and is not a guarantee of the amount of child support that will be awarded.

Treatises, CLE Materials

Treatises and CLE materials are useful for understanding the domestic relations laws in Ohio and for finding forms and practice assistance. Contact your local law library if your office does not own a copy of these useful resources:

Anderson's Ohio Domestic Relations Practice Manual (2005 & Supp. 2008). This practice manual delves into dissolution and divorce proceedings and custody issues. It also includes court rules and forms from several urban counties.

Anderson's Ohio Family Law, (2003 & Supp. 2008). This detailed treatise includes forms.

Baldwin's Ohio Practice Soward Morganstern Domestic Relations Law, (4th ed., 2002 & Supp. 208). This is a comprehensive multivolume set.

Ohio Continuing Legal Education Books: Adoption Law in Ohio, 2002; Advanced Topics in Family Law, 2006; Business Divorce, 2004; Child Custody, 2006; Family Law Mediation and Guardianship Law, 2003; Fine Points of Divorce, 2006; Guardian ad Litem Toolbox/ Domestic Relations Agreements, 2006

Finally, don't forget about current Ohio law reviews and journals. There are many articles that survey the laws surrounding domestic relations in Ohio. Also, the Domestic Relations Journal of Ohio is a bimonthly newsletter published by Banks-Baldwin which contains court decision summaries and practice tips that might also serve as useful resources. 

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These are some of the domestic court Web sites:

Butler County Domestic Relations Court - www.butlercountyohio.org/drcourt/pages/main_page.htm

Clermont County Domestic Relations Court - www.domesticcourt.org/

Hamilton County Domestic Relations Court - www.hamilton-co.org/domestic/

Montgomery County Domestic Relations Court - www.mcohio.org/dr/

Warren County Domestic Relations Court - www.co.warren.oh.us/domestic_relations_court/

The Cincinnati Law Library guide is available at - www.hamilton-co.org/cinlawlib/resources/guides/dr.html

The Ohio Family Law Blog is available at - www.hcmmlaw.com/blog/

The AllLaw Child Support Calculator is available at - www.alllaw.com/calculators/Childsupport/ohio/.