

How to File a Complaint for Child Support, Medical Expenses, Tax Exemption, or Other Child-Related Expenses (Establishment of Child Support)



This information is provided as a guide to file a Complaint for Child Support, Medical Expenses, Tax Exemption, or Other Child-Related Expenses (Establishment of Child Support) case with Domestic Relations Court. For more specific legal advice you should contact an attorney. Court personnel are not permitted to give legal advice.



THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED AND MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL

THE FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEB PAGE AT:

https://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/government/courts/court_of_domestic_relations

Required Forms Checklist:

1. **Complaint for Child Support, Medical Expenses, Tax Exemption, or Other Child-Related Expenses** **Form 1.31**
2. **Written Request for Service** **Form 43.7**
3. **Questionnaire (Must be typed)** **Form 1.1**
4. **Affidavit of Income and Expenses** **Form 7.3**
5. **Affidavit in Compliance with ORC 3127.23** **Form 2.1**
6. **Group Health Insurance Affidavit** **Form 7.16**
7. **IV-D Application** **Form ODHS 7076**
8. **Copy of Plaintiff's Drivers License or State I.D.**

Filing Fee / Number of Copies / Forms



Filing Fee

The filing fee is **\$350.00** and is payable by **CASH, PERSONAL CHECK, CERTIFIED CHECK, MONEY ORDER, MASTERCARD, VISA, AMERICAN EXPRESS, or DISCOVER CARD**. If you are paying by credit card, a fee will be added as dictated by this schedule: www.courtclerk.org/forms/pnp_schedule.pdf When using a credit card, the card holder must be present. Checks and Money Orders are to be made payable to: **CLERK OF COURTS**

Required Copies

The Clerk of Courts will retain your original signed documents at the time of filing. Copies must be provided to serve the defendant, for the Court of Domestic Relations, and for your records. Therefore, you must provide the original signed documents and **THREE** sets of copies. If you are requesting service by publication or posting, you must provide the original signed documents and **FOUR** sets of copies. Only **one** copy of the Questionnaire and **one** copy of Plaintiff's driver license or state ID is required.

1. Complaint (Form 1.31)

The Complaint for Child Support, Medical Expenses, Tax Exemption, or Other Child-Related Expenses must be completed in full and signed by the plaintiff. You **must** indicate that the parents of the child(ren) are married (statement #3 on page 1) and attach documentation providing proof of marital status.

2. Written Request for Service (Form 43.7)

The documents for Establishment of Child Support must be served on the defendant. The most common method of service is certified mail issued through the Clerk of Courts office. If you are requesting Sherriff's service or hiring a process server, inform the Clerk of Courts at the time of filing. If you have no address for the Defendant and are requesting service by publication or posting, you will need to provide an **Affidavit for Service by Publication/Posting** and a **Legal Notice** at the time of filling. Both forms are available at 800 Broadway on the 3rd floor at the Clerk of Court's Office.

3. Questionnaire (Form 1.1)

The Questionnaire form, as indicated, must be typed. A Microsoft Word template version is available on Domestic Relations website that you can fill in and print. If you do not have Microsoft's Word program on your computer, you may type and print this document at the self-serve station at Domestic Relations Court's Docket Office, 800 Broadway on the 3rd floor. **It is very important to fully complete every section of this document (social security numbers, parents' names, former marriages, etc.)**

4. Affidavit of Income and Expenses (Form 7.3)

This document is an accounting of the financial information of the parties and may be used to establish support and/or identify assets and liabilities of the parties. The Income Section starting on page 1 of this document is divided into separate columns for each spouse. The remaining sections of this document describe affiant's monthly expenses, installment payments, financial disclosure, and other assets and lump sum income. This document must be notarized as it is a written sworn statement.

5. Affidavit in Compliance with ORC 3127.23 (Form 2.1)

This document identifies the minor child(ren) of the marriage, date(s) of birth, and current and prior addresses of the child(ren). Further statements require disclosure of any proceeding regarding the child(ren) in Ohio or another state as well as names and addresses of individuals other than the parties who claim to have custody or visitation rights with regard to the child(ren). This document must be notarized as it is a written sworn statement.

6. Group Health Insurance Affidavit (Form 7.16)

Access to health insurance for **both parties** is reported in this affidavit. The document is divided into columns for plaintiff and defendant and should be completed as fully and accurately as possible. Health insurance availability and the associated cost may be taken into consideration when calculating child support. This document must be notarized as it is a written sworn statement.

7. IV-D Application (Form ODHS 7076)

The IV-D Application is an application to receive child support services from Child Support Enforcement Agency. Domestic Relations Court requires this document in all cases involving children. The IV-D Application must be filed **even if the parties do not request an exchange of child support.**



The Filing Process

Please remember that Court staff is not permitted to give legal advice.

1. Bring your documents to Domestic Relations Docket Office at 800 Broadway on the 3rd floor, Room 3-46. The Docket Office staff will ensure all required documentation has been provided. They will notify you of any omitted paperwork so be sure to utilize the checklist.
2. Once the Docket Office acknowledges the complete filing, you will be given a classification form and sent to the Clerk of Courts Office, Room 3-47 (both offices are located in the same area on the 3rd floor).
3. The Clerk of Courts office will collect the \$350.00 filing fee, assign a case number, and retain your original set of documents for their file. Copies of your case documents will be stamped and returned to you.
4. Next you will return to the Docket Office and provide a stamped set of copies to Domestic Relations Court. The staff will enter your case into their system, assign a Judge and a Magistrate, and schedule your hearing date. The **first** hearing, called the scheduling conference, will be set about 40 days from the date of filing to allow for service on the defendant.
5. The last step is to fill in the Certificate of Service and Notice of Hearing in the appropriate section on the last page of the complaint:

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Complaint has been served by Certified Mail/Personal Service/Process Server to:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____, State _____, Zip Code _____
On this date: _____

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a hearing for Establishment of Child Support has been scheduled on (date) _____ at (time) _____ for 30 minutes before Magistrate _____ in Room _____. Said hearing will take place at 800 Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio.

You will need to fill in this date on the original document and two copies and then return to the Clerk of Courts office to drop off the original and a copy to serve on the defendant.

Additional Questions?

Please contact the Docket Office at 513-946-9043.