

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION**

IN THE MATTER OF:

CASE NO(S):

STATEMENT OF LEGAL UNDERSTANDING FOR LEGAL CUSTODY

I, _____ am the _____ of the above referenced child(ren).
(name) (relationship to child(ren))

It is my intent to become the legal custodian of the child(ren), and I am ready, willing, and able to assume legal responsibility for the care and supervision of the child(ren).

I understand the legal custody of each child is intended to be permanent in nature and that I will be responsible as the custodian for the child until the child reaches the age of majority.

I further understand that my responsibility as custodian for each child shall continue beyond the age of majority if, at the time the child reaches the age of majority, the child is pursuing a diploma granted by the board of education or other governing authority, successful completion of the curriculum of any high school, successful completion of an individualized education program developed for the student by any high school, or an age and schooling certificate. I further understand that responsibility beyond the age of majority shall terminate when the child ceases to continuously pursue such an education, completes such an education, or is excused from such an education under standards adopted by the State Board of Education, whichever occurs first.

I further understand that the parent(s) of each child have residual parental rights, privileges, and responsibilities, including, but not limited to, the privilege of reasonable visitation, consent to adoption, the privilege to determine the child(ren)'s religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support.

I further understand that I must be present in Court for the dispositional hearing in order to affirm my intention to become legal custodian, to affirm that I understand the effect of the custodianship before the court, and to answer any questions that the Court or any parties to the case may have.

I further understand that in order to give up or change custody of the child(ren), a motion must be filed with the Court and the Court must order the change in custody.

I further understand that the Court cannot modify or terminate an order granting legal custody of a child unless it finds, based on facts that have arisen since the order was issued or that were unknown to the Court at the time, that a change has occurred in the circumstances of the child(ren) or the person who was granted legal custody, and the modification or termination of the order is necessary to serve the best interest of the child.

Pursuant to O.R.C. 2151.353 (K) the jurisdiction of the court shall terminate one year after the date of the award or, if the court takes any further action in the matter subsequent to the award, the date of the latest further action subsequent to the award, if the court awards legal custody of a child to either of the following: (1) A legal custodian who, at the time of the award of legal custody, resides in a county of this state other than the county in which the court is located; (2) A legal custodian who resides in the county in which the court is located at the time of the award of legal custody, but moves to a different county of this state prior to one year after the date of the award or, if the court takes any further action in the matter subsequent to the award, one year after the date of the latest further action subsequent to the award. The court in the county in which the legal custodian resides then shall have jurisdiction in the matter.

Printed Name of Prospective Legal Custodian Date of Birth

Signature of Prospective Legal Custodian Date

Printed Name of Prospective Legal Custodian Date of Birth

Signature of Prospective Legal Custodian Date

Printed Name of Muskingum County Children Services Caseworker

Signature of Muskingum County Children Services Caseworker