

INTRODUCTION

Amendments to the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio (Sup.R. 16 through 16.25) were adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio effective Jan. 1, 2020. The amendments require courts that use mediation to adopt a local rule. To meet these requirements, the Supreme Court prepared resources to assist in drafting a local court rule providing for mediation. Below is information to assist in creating a local rule. The Dispute Resolution Section also will be posting a Rule 16 Mediation Toolkit with more information soon.

The following steps will provide guidance:

STEP 1:

Review the rule 16 amendments.

STEP 2:

To create a local rule, become familiar with the required provisions in Rule 16.21. Next, review:

- 1) The Local Rule Guide and Sample Rule; or the
- 2) Juvenile Courts Local Rule Guide and Sample Rule, as applicable to your court.

After reading the directions and reviewing additional resources as necessary, customize your local rule using the guide.

STEP 3:

Pursuant to the Rules of Superintendence Rule 5. Local Rules, adopt the local rule after providing appropriate notice and an opportunity to comment, and file the local rule by Feb. 1, 2020, with the clerk of the Supreme Court by email to: clerk@sc.ohio.gov or send to:

Supreme Court of Ohio
Office of the Clerk
65 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3431.

In 2019, tolling of the time guidelines for mediation was expanded from just domestic relations cases to include all other case types pursuant to Sup.R. 39. Consult the [Supreme Court of Ohio Statistical Reporting and Instructions](#) for the latest updates.

For questions, contact the Dispute Resolution Section at 614.387.9420 or Dispute.Resolution@sc.ohio.gov.