

Juvenile and Family Law

S.B. 210

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Gavarone

Effective date: March 23, 2023

Legal relations between spouses

- Expands the ability for spouses to enter into agreements that alter legal relations.
- Establishes postnuptial agreements and treats them the same as antenuptial agreements under the Revised Code.
- Allows spouses to modify antenuptial and postnuptial agreements.
- Establishes requirements for agreements entered between spouses that alter legal relations, and provides that agreements that meet the requirements are valid and enforceable, with or without consideration.
- Allows a court to terminate a decree of legal separation on a motion signed by both spouses.

Social Security numbers

- Repeals the requirement that the record of any action for divorce, dissolution, annulment, or spousal support contain the parties' Social Security numbers.

Dating protection orders; domestic violence shelters

- Expands the definition of "person with whom the respondent (or actor) is or was in a dating relationship" to include minors who are subject to domestic or dating violence for purposes of domestic violence protection order law and domestic violence shelters law.

Appointing acting judges

- Removes the population limit and in-territory residency preference for appointing certain acting municipal court or county court judges.

S.B. 239

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Blessing

Effective date: September 13, 2022; appropriation effective June 14, 2022

Professional treatment staff qualifications

- Establishes qualifications and requirements for professional treatment staff of a specialized foster home (foster home caring for special needs children) program agency who do any of the following:

- Provide rehabilitative services to a child placed in a specialized foster home program or to the child’s family;
- Conduct home studies as an assessor for specialized foster homes;
- Provide clinical direction to specialized foster caregivers;
- Supervise treatment team leaders.
- Requires professional treatment staff employed by a public children services agency (PCSA) to meet the same educational qualifications and training requirements as required of PCSA caseworkers under continuing law.
- Requires professional treatment staff employed by a private child placing agency (PCPA) or a private noncustodial agency (PNA) to also meet the same educational qualifications and training requirements as required of PCSA caseworkers under continuing law, except that in the first year of continuous employment:
 - Staff only need to complete certain courses, rather than all courses required under continuing law; and
 - Staff only need to undergo training for the number of hours needed to complete the specified courses, instead of the minimum 102 hours of in-service training required for PCSA caseworkers for all the courses.
- Requires the Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) to work with PCPAs and PNAs to establish a comprehensive, competency-based professional treatment staff training program for employees who meet the act’s training requirements.
- Allows PCPAs, PNAs, or qualified nonprofit organizations to offer the required training, provided that JFS approves it and has not yet established its own training program.

ICF/IID Medicaid payment rates

- Eliminates an exception, enacted as uncodified law in the main operating budget, specifying that if the statewide average Medicaid rate for ICFs/IID exceeds \$365.05, the payment rates for FY 2023 are reduced by the percentage the statewide average exceeds that amount.
- Instead, requires the Department of Developmental Disabilities, for FY 2023, to pay each ICF/IID a rate as determined under existing codified law, using funds from the enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) enacted in the “Families First Coronavirus Response Act.”