

PICKAWAY COUNTY JUVENILE/PROBATE COURT 207 S. COURT STREET,
CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO 43113

NAME: JOHN DOE

Case No: 20253178

In the Matter of: T.D.

DATE POSTED: 6/5/26

Date: 8/7/26 to be Removed

D. Radcliff
Deputy Clerk

6-5-26
Date

www.pickawaycourt.org/PublicNotices

Date Removed : _____

Deputy Clerk

Date

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF: : CASE NO: 20253178
: :
T.D. : : JUDGE HARSHA
: :
: :
: : AFFIDAVIT

SHELLY A. HARSHA
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

2026 JUN -5 AM 10:18

FILED

STATE OF OHIO
COUNTY OF PICKAWAY, SS:

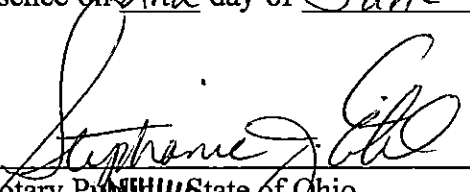
Affiant, being first duly cautioned and sworn, deposes and states that they are an employee of Pickaway County Job & Family Services, and that the current address of Father, John Doe, is unknown and cannot, with reasonable diligence, be ascertained. The last known address is unknown. Affiant further states that efforts made to learn the address of said party include attempts to locate through the phone book, requests of family for current address, and attempts by child support and law enforcement to locate the name and address(es) in their records and data banks.

Affiant further states that the service of summons cannot be made and prays for service by posting according to law.



Amy Hoar, Program Manager
Pickaway County Job & Family Services

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence on 2nd day of June,
2026.



Notary Public, State of Ohio



Stephanie J Eitel
Notary Public
State of Ohio
My Comm Expires 7-28-27

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF: : CASE NO: 20253178
: :
T.D. : JUDGE HARSHA
: :
: :
: :
DOB: 11/14/2025 : NOTICE

SHELLY R. HARSHA
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

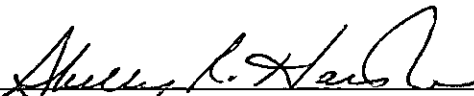
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Father, John Doe, whose address is unknown, will take notice that a Motion for Legal Custody has been filed in the Juvenile Division of the Court of Common Pleas, Pickaway County Ohio, containing a prayer or request for legal custody of the child, T.D., to Darrin and Kim Samson. Said Motion will be heard before the Juvenile Court in Circleville, Ohio, Pickaway County, at 2:30 pm on August 13, 2026 at the Pickaway County Courthouse, Pickaway County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Division, 207 South Court Street Circleville, Ohio 43113.

You are hereby notified that:

1. Any party is entitled to a lawyer in all proceedings in Juvenile Court. If a party cannot afford a lawyer and meets certain requirements, the Court will appoint one upon request. If you wish to have a lawyer, but believe you cannot afford one, call Dodie Radcliff at Pickaway County Juvenile Court at 740-474-3117 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, or write the Pickaway County Juvenile Court at Pickaway County Courthouse, 207 South Court Street, Circleville, Ohio 43113.
2. The granting of the Motion and prayer for legal custody to Darrin and Kim Samson will result in the parents losing physical and legal custody of the child until the Court terminates the order or permanently divests the parent of all parental rights.



Judge Harsha



Deputy Clerk

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF:

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CASE NO: 20253178

T.D.

JUDGE HARSHA

INSTRUCTIONS

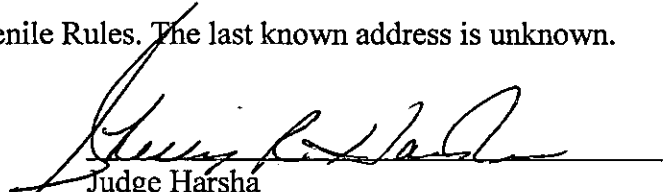
SHELLY R. HARSHA
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

2026 JUN -5 AM 10:18


FILED

TO THE CLERK:

Please issue for service the Affidavit and Notice upon Father, John Doe, by posting in accordance with Pickaway County Local Juvenile Rules. The last known address is unknown.


Judge Harsha

Prepared by:


Lynne R. Nothstine #0061560
Attorney for Pickaway County Job and
Family Services

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION

SUMMONS

In the Matter of: **T.D.**

Case Number: 20253178

AN ALLEGED ABUSED, NEGLECTED and/or DEPENDENT CHILD

To an Officer with Authority to Serve, you are commanded to summon:

April Samson
22 Burroughs Drive
Ashville, OH 43103

James Degraaf
822 Olive St
SPRINGFIELD, OH 45503

John Doe
unknown

2026 JUN -5 AM 9:56
FILED
SHELLY R. HARSHA
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

SUMMONS

You are hereby summoned to appear in **Pickaway County Juvenile Court, 207 S. Court Street, Circleville, Ohio 43113** before **Judge Shelly Harsha** within and for said County on **08/13/2026 at 02:30 PM** for the **CUSTODY- LEGAL** on a Complaint filed by Pickaway County Job & Family Services. The sworn complaint filed in this Court is attached.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

1. **Right to Counsel:** You are entitled to a lawyer in all proceedings in Juvenile Court. The Court will appoint a lawyer to provide legal representation if you cannot afford a lawyer and meet certain requirements.
2. The Court may be reached by telephone at (740) 474-3117, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. to arrange for the prompt appointment of counsel for indigent persons. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, but believe you cannot afford one, please contact the Court as soon as possible. Ohio law requires all persons requesting Court appointed counsel to pay an application fee of \$25.00 within seven (7) days of the request for counsel. If you do not wish to be represented by a lawyer, you must sign a waiver of counsel in open Court.
3. If the Court makes an adjudication of dependency, neglect, or abuse (finds the allegations contained in the attached complaint are true), this may result in one of the following:
 - An award of **permanent custody**, which permanently takes from the parent all parental rights, duties, privileges, and obligations, including the right to consent to the adoption of the child(ren); or
 - Placement of the child in a **planned permanent living arrangement** with a public children services agency or private child placing agency, if a public children services agency or private child placing agency request the Court to place the child in a planned permanent living arrangement and the Court finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that a permanent planned living arrangement is in the best interest of the child and that one the following exist:
 1. The child, because of physical, mental, or psychological problems or needs, is unable to function in a family-like setting and must remain in residential or institutional care.
 2. The parents of the child have significant physical, mental, or psychological problems and are unable to care for the child because of those problems, adoption is not in the best interest of the child, as determined in accordance with division (D) of section 2151.41 (2151.414) of the Revised Code, and the child retains a significant and positive relationship with a parent or relative.
 3. The child is sixteen years of age or older, has been counseled on the permanent placement options available to the child, is unwilling to accept or unable to adapt to a permanent placement, and is in an agency program preparing the child for independent living.

- An award of **legal custody** of the child to either parent or to any persons who files a motion requesting legal custody of the child. “Legal custody” means a legal status that vests in the custodian the right to have physical care and control of the child and to determine where and with whom the child shall live, and the right and duty to protect, train, and discipline the child and to provide the child with food, shelter, education, and medical care, all subject to any residual parental rights and responsibilities. An individual granted legal custody shall exercise all rights and responsibilities personally unless otherwise authorized by any section of the Revised Code or by the Court.
- An order of **temporary custody**, which will cause removal of the child from the parent’s legal and physical custody until the Court terminates the order or permanently divests the parent of all parental rights.
- An order of **protective supervision**, which will permit the child to remain in the parent’s legal and physical custody subject to any conditions and limitations the Court prescribes.
- Order the removal from the child’s home until further order of the Court any person who committed abuse as described in Section 2151.031 of the Revised Code against the child, who caused or allowed the child to suffer neglect as described in section 2151.03 of the Revised Code, or who is the parent, guardian, or custodian of a child who is adjudicated a dependent child and order any person not to have contact with the child or the child’s siblings.
- An order implementing a **case plan**, a document that sets forth specific goals in a case and the means by which they will be achieved. A case plan generally requires the establishment of general goals for the child consistent with the best interest and special needs of the child, including the establishment of priorities dealing with the best interest of the child. Case plans will usually require visits to the home by caseworkers from Pickaway County Children’s Services and may include, but are not limited to, 1) psychological evaluations; 2) parent education classes; 3) substance abuse assessments and treatment; 4) mental health assessments and treatment; 5) domestic violence education; and/or 6) individual and/or family counseling.
- If a parent, guardian, or custodian of the child is bound by the terms of the journalized case plan and fails to comply, the Court can hold that parent, guardian, or custodian in **contempt** of Court for failure to comply. A finding of contempt may result in the imposition of a fine and/or jail sentence.

YOUR RIGHTS:

Regardless of whether you are represented by a lawyer, you have the following rights guaranteed by law unless such rights are waived in open Court:

- You have the right to remain silent.
- You have the right to offer evidence on your own behalf and the right to compel the attendance of witnesses at an adjudicatory hearing by the issuance of subpoenas.
- You have the right to compel the prosecuting attorney to prove its case by clear and convincing evidence.
- You have the right to confront, question, and cross-examine any witnesses presented against you.

RIGHT TO APPEAL:

Upon the filing of a Final Entry, you have the right to appeal to the Fourth District Court of Appeals by filing a written notice of appeal with the Court with a copy delivered to the Clerk of the Court of Appeals within thirty (30) days of the filing of the Judgment Entry. You have the right to a record of the proceedings. If you cannot afford a copy of the records, one will be provided to you at no cost to you.

RULES FOR COURT:

When you appear in Court, you must obey the following rules, as proper decorum is necessary for the administration of the Court’s business:

- You must be properly attired at all hearings. Tank tops, shorts, sandals, bare feet, etc. are not acceptable. If you are not properly attired, the Court may order the hearing will not go forward.
- No radio or television transmission, voice recording device (other than that used by the Court), making or taking of pictures, pagers, beepers, or other devices shall be permitted, except on consent of the Court and in accordance with Rule 11 of the Rules of Superintendence.

- Any person entering the Juvenile Court is subject to search. No person carrying a bag, case, or parcel shall be permitted to enter and remain in any courtroom without first submitting such bag, case, or parcel to security personnel for inspection.
- Food, beverages, and smoking is prohibited in the courtroom during all hearings.
- In the event children, who are not parties to the case, must be brought to Court, adequate supervision must be provided. The Court is not responsible for the care of children during Court proceedings.
- Any persons appearing before the Court must refrain from using alcohol or illegal substances prior to their appearance. If a person appears under the influence, they may be prohibited entry to the Court.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT, this Jun 5, 2026.

SHELLY R. HARSHA, JUDGE

BY: *D. Redcliff*

DEPUTY CLERK

THE STATE OF OHIO, Pickaway

RETURN

On the 5th day of June, 2026, I served the same on the within named by Atte. Peruvants, Atte. Stanton, PCTFS, CASA - CMB
Notice By Posting to, John Doe aka April Sanson
, mother

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PICKAWAY COUNTY,
JUVENILE DIVISION

SHARLA A. HARSHA
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

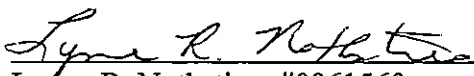
2026 JUN -3 AM 10:55

FILED

IN THE MATTER OF: **T.D.** : CASE NO: 20253178
: :
: JUDGE HARSHA
: :
: **MOTION FOR LEGAL CUSTODY**

Now comes the State of Ohio on behalf of Pickaway County Job & Family Services (hereafter "the Agency"), and respectfully requests that this Court grant an order placing **T.D.**, DOB: 11/14/2025, in the legal custody of Darrin and Kim Samson. Reasons supporting this Motion are set forth in the following Memorandum.

Respectfully submitted,


Lynne R. Nothstine #0061560
Attorney for Pickaway County Job and Family Services
1005 South Pickaway Street, P.O. Box 610
Circleville, OH 43113
Phone: (740) 571-8473
Fax: (740) 477-1023

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

When a child has been adjudicated abused, neglected, or dependent, a juvenile court can make and revise dispositional orders in the best interests of the child. *See* R.C. 215.353; R.C. 2151.415; R.C. 2151.417. This includes granting legal custody to a relative or other interested party. “Legal custody” is a legal status that grants the custodian the right to have physical care and control of the child, to determine where and with whom the child shall live, and the right and duty to protect, train, and discipline the child and to provide food, shelter, education, and medical care, all of which is subject to any residual parental rights, privileges, and responsibilities. R.C. § 2151.011 (B)(21); Juv. R. 2(V). Legal custody is intended to be permanent in nature. R.C. § 2151.42(B). A court may award legal custody to either parent or to any other person who was identified as a proposed legal custodian in the complaint or motion filed by a party to the proceedings. A proposed legal custodian must execute a statement of understanding in conformance with the R.C. § 2151.353(A)(3) and be present for the hearing to affirm intent, demonstrate understanding of the effect of a legal custody order, and answer questions from the court or parties. *Id.*


The court need not find parental unfitness as a prerequisite to an award of legal custody. *In re CR*, 108 Ohio St.3d 369, 2006-Ohio-1191, 843 N.E.2d 1188, ¶ 21. Indeed, “[a] juvenile court adjudication of abuse, neglect, or dependency is a determination about the care and condition of a child and implicitly involves a determination of the unsuitability of the child’s custodial and/or noncustodial parents.” *Id.*, at ¶ 23. Accordingly, the court will look to what serves the child’s best interest. *See* R.C. 2151.353; R.C. 2151.42; *In re Allah*, 1st Dist. Hamilton No. C-040239, 2005 Ohio App. LEXIS 1163 (March 18, 2005), at ¶ 10.

In determining the best interest of a child, the court should consider the totality of the circumstances, including those factors set forth in R.C. 3109.04(F). R.C. 2151.23(F)(1); *In re Pryor*, 86 Ohio App.3d 327, 336, 620 N.E.2d 973 (1993). A court may make an award of legal custody where a preponderance of the evidence shows that it is in the child's best interest. *In re C.A.*, 12th Dist. Butler No. CA2014-07-165, 2015-Ohio-1410, ¶ 13; *In re L.A.B.*, 12th Dist. Fayette No. CA2012-03-008, 2012-Ohio-5010, ¶ 12. In the case at hand, the State will prove that it is in the Minor Children's best interest that they be placed in the legal custody of Darrin and Kim Samson.

The child was born on November 14, 2025 and tested positive for fentanyl and gabapentin. The child experienced withdrawal symptoms that required her to be hospitalized until December 1, 2025. Mother, April Samson, admitted to fentanyl use. The child was placed with maternal grandfather & maternal step-grandmother, Darrin and Kim Samson on December 1, 2025.

Since the onset of the case, Mother has not made any progress on her case plan. She has been in and out of multiple detox centers, leaving against medical advice. She has not contacted the Agency or the child in over two months. Currently, there is no last known address or way to contact her. Multiple attempts have been made with no results of contact. Maternal grandparents have had no contact with Mother. For these reasons, the Agency requests that legal custody be granted to Darrin and Kim Samson.

Respectfully submitted,


Lynne R. Nothstine #0061560
Attorney for Pickaway County Job and
Family Services

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION

FILED

IN THE MATTER OF: T.D.

CASE NO: 20253178

JUN 03 2026

JUDGE HARSHA

SHELLY R. HARSHA
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

Alleged Abused, Neglected
and/or Dependent Child

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

It is the intent of the undersigned, Darrin and Kim Samson to become the legal custodians of the above referenced child. Further, the undersigned are able to assume legal responsibility for the care and supervision of the child.


The undersigned understands that legal custody of the child in question is intended to be permanent in nature and that the undersigned will be responsible as the custodian for the child until the child reaches the age of majority. Responsibility as custodians for the 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; the successful completion of the curriculum of any high school; the successful completion of an individualized education program developed for the student by any high school; or an age and schooling certificate. 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.

The undersigned acknowledges that parents of the 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's religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support.

Instructions to the Clerk:

Please serve the following parties to the above captioned case by the method indicated with notice of hearing, summons and a copy of the Motion and Statement of Understanding.

- April Samson, by posting;
- Alex Pomerants, Attorney for Mother, by the courthouse mailbox;
- John Doe, by posting;
- Peter Scranton, Attorney for Minor Child, by the courthouse mailbox;
- Pickaway County Job & Family Services by the courthouse mailbox; and
- CASA by the courthouse mailbox.


Lynne R. Nothstine #0061560
Attorney for Pickaway County Job and
Family Services

Further, the undersigned understands that they must be present in court for the dispositional hearing to affirm the person's intention to become the legal custodian, to affirm that the person understands the effect of the custodianship before the court, and to answer any question that the court or any parties to the case may have.

Kim Samson
Kim Samson

DATE: 5-22-26

Darrin Samson
Darrin Samson

DATE: 5-22-26