OFFICE OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
Families and Children Letter FCL #035

To: Public and Private Agency Directors, Public Children Services Association of Ohio, Ohio Children’s Alliance

From: Jeffery Van Deusen, Deputy Director
Office of Families and Children

Date: July 12, 2022

Subject: Discontinuation of the Ohio Pre-Clearance Rule Review Website

Background
The pre-clearance rule review website, Ohio's Families and Children Rule Review Site | Home Page (ohiorulereview.org), was developed to provide an opportunity for interested stakeholders to review and comment on OFC’s Ohio Administrative Code rules in advance of the formal clearance process. The website was developed in 2014 and has been maintained by the Family and Youth Law (FYLaw) Center at Capital University Law School.

Discontinuation of the Ohio Pre-Clearance Rule Review Website
Capital University Law School has decided to suspend FYLaw’s operations effective August 1, 2022. In consideration of this change, OFC has reviewed the data regarding the use of the website for pre-clearance review and comments, finding as follows:

- Since 2014, 470 rules and 33 forms have been posted for pre-clearance feedback
- 109/470 or 23% of rules received one or more comments.
- 13/33 or 39% of forms received one or more comments.
- Often the comments received were unrelated to the rule or form being reviewed.
- Some comments from the public provided feedback on unrelated specific case issues.

Based upon the limited feedback received through the website, OFC has concluded that this method of pre-clearance review can be eliminated, in the interest of reducing red tape, as an unnecessary step in the rule development process. As a result, the Ohio Rule Review website will be discontinued, effective August 1, 2022.
OFC will continue with the various methods already established for stakeholders to provide feedback throughout the entire rule development process. In addition to the normal rule commenting process via clearance, OFC will continue using Microburst on Reviewing Rules and Policies Hearings (MORRPH) when deemed necessary for complex review and feedback prior to clearance, PCSAO Rule Committee, Partners for Ohio’s Families (PFOF) meetings, routine engagement with professional associations, and other stakeholder workgroups and committees for rule feedback.

**Contact**
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