**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DELAWARE COUNTY, OHIO**

**DAVID A. HEJMANOWSKI, JUDGE**

**In the Matter of:**

 **Counsel in Adoptions Case No. 2501 0001 PMO**

**STANDING ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

 Pursuant to amended R.C. 3107.011, effective March 20, 2025, the law now exempts certain adoption petitioners from the general requirement to use an agency or attorney to arrange an adoption. Any “stepparent, a grandparent, adult sibling, a legal custodian, or a guardian” of the person sought to be adopted is no longer required to use an attorney. R.C. 3107.011(A).

This Court therefore amends Loc.R. 75.2(A), through the instant administrative order, to remove the requirement for representation by attorney by a petitioner who is a stepparent, a grandparent, adult sibling, a legal custodian, or a guardian of the person sought to be adopted. Nonetheless, all petitioners for adoption of minors are **strongly encouraged** to retain counsel due to the complexity of the litigation. Failure to engage counsel may increase costs and create delays. The Court and Clerk are prevented by law from giving legal advice.

**It is so ordered,**