

**RULES OF PRACTICE
OF THE
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Delay in criminal and civil cases in the Courts of Common Pleas throughout the state of Ohio is a serious problem in the administration of justice. Constitutional courts were created to serve the litigants and the interest of the public at large, not for the convenience or benefit of judges and lawyers. Unnecessary delay erodes the public's confidence in the judicial system.

It is the obligation of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas, Franklin County, Ohio, to operate the Court in a manner that is lawful, fair, just, and efficient for the benefit of the citizens of Franklin County and all other litigants that come before it. To that end, the following rules are designed (1) to expedite the disposition of both criminal and civil cases in this Court, while at the same time safeguarding the rights of litigants to the just processing of their cases; (2) to expedite and make consistent the disposition of cases in the general branch of the Court; and (3) to serve the public interest which mandates the prompt disposition of all cases before this Court.

RULE 18 - WITHDRAWAL OF TRIAL ATTORNEY - [7/21/94]

18.01 An attorney desiring to withdraw from representation of a client in civil or criminal cases shall file a motion to withdraw stating the reasons for the withdrawal. The motion shall also include the last current address and phone number of the client and certification by the attorney that the following conditions have been met:

- a. notice has been given to the client advising the client of all orders and all upcoming assignment dates affecting the client;
- b. notice has been given to all counsel, or if unrepresented, notice has been given to the parties.

18.02 No attorney shall be permitted to withdraw from a case later than 20 days prior to a trial or dispositive hearing except for extraordinary circumstances that require direct permission of the Court.