

**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 37 GENERAL TIME LIMITS

37.01 Case Tracks

All civil cases, except Administrative Appeals (F), mandamus, habeas corpus, equity matters, or any other case which, by its nature, requires a more rapid adjudication as determined by the Trial Judge, shall be placed on the 12-month primary time track or the 24-month time track. Each time track consists of a planned sequence of events leading from filing to trial, assuming the case is not terminated earlier.

37.02 Primary Track

The 12-month time track is the primary, standard track for the resolution of nearly all of the cases in the General Division of the Court of Common Pleas. It shall be presumed that the typical Personal Injury (C), Workers' Compensation Appeal (D), Other Civil (H), and Foreclosure (E) cases will be suitable for pleading, discovery, motions practice, and disposition within this time frame. A longer time track will be the exception to this standard operating procedure and used only for out of the ordinary cases within these classifications.

37.03 Longer Tracks

The 24-month time track is for the Professional Tort (A) and Products Liability (B) cases. No case shall be designated as Complex Litigation (G) until Sup. R. 42 has been complied with. Cases filed which may later be designated as Complex shall be assigned to a track and given an Case Schedule based on their subject-matter classification. Such cases shall have an initial status conference as specified in the Case Schedule, or upon request of counsel. The Trial Judge shall order a specific Amended Case Schedule appropriate to that particular case, and may use the 12-month and 24-month tracks as models for a proportionately longer track.

37.04 Non-Track Cases

In civil cases filed prior to July 1, 1991, which are not covered by the Case Schedule and are not

currently assigned a time track, the Assignment Commissioner shall assign the case for trial with the concurrence of the Trial Judge. All cases shall be assigned a trial date consistent with the standards set forth in the Rules of Superintendence of the Courts of Common Pleas.