

**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 51- PRODUCTION OF HOSPITAL RECORDS

51.01 Upon motion of any party showing good cause and upon notice to all other parties, the Trial Judge may order any hospital in the county, by any agent competent to act in its behalf, to reproduce by photostating or other recognized method of facsimile reproduction, all or any portion of designated hospital records or x-rays, not privileged, which constitute or contain evidence pertinent to an action pending in this Court. Such order shall direct the hospital to describe by covering letter the portion or portions of the records reproduced and any omissions therefrom and to specify the usual and reasonable charges for copying. The order shall designate the person or persons to whom the reproductions shall be delivered or made available.

51.02 Objections to the admissibility of reproduced hospital records on the grounds of materiality or competency shall be deemed reserved for ruling at the time of trial without specific reservation in the order to reproduce. Reproductions made pursuant to this procedure may be admitted in evidence without further identification or authentication but subject to rulings on objections impliedly or specifically reserved unless the order expressly provides otherwise.

51.03 Expenses and other incidental charges for reproductions of its records shall be paid directly to the hospital concerned by the movant or movants.

51.04 Where original records are produced in Court and reproductions subsequently substituted by agreement of the parties or by order of the Court, the movant or movants shall be responsible for the cost. Unless otherwise ordered by the Trial Judge, all original records shall be returned by the court reporter to the hospital upon entry of judgment in this Court.