

**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.

CASE FLOW MANAGEMENT PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

When litigation is filed in this Court, we judges believe it is important that the Court supervise the progress of all cases from filing to termination in a process that is fundamentally fair, but not too deliberate or too hasty. Within the bounds of applicable constitutional provisions, statutes, case law, and rules governing the courts of Ohio, the Court shall manage the sequence of events in litigation to insure the timely disposition of all matters by trial, submission for decision on legal arguments, negotiated settlement, arbitration, mediation, or other means of appropriate dispute resolution.

It is therefore incumbent upon the judges to articulate orders in each case for the uniform enforcement of procedural requirements, other rules, and time deadlines applicable in any particular case or type of case. Counsel in each case has a corresponding duty to know these rules and meet these deadlines and to inform the Court of extraordinary circumstances which would cause the standard deadlines to work a substantive injustice to their clients.

RULE 33 CASE FLOW MANAGEMENT

33.01 These case flow management rules shall apply to all civil cases filed in the General Division of the Common Pleas Court, unless (1) the case by its very nature requires a more rapid adjudication such as equity matters, habeas corpus, etc.; (2) the case, because of court-imposed stays, interlocutory appeals, removal to federal court, and remand, etc., requires a different schedule; or (3) the Trial Judge, by written order, places the case on a different schedule for resolution based on good cause shown. Cases wherever possible will be resolved on the shortest time track under these rules. The deadlines set by the Ohio Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Common Pleas shall be construed as maximums and shall not preclude the more rapid resolution of cases under these rules.

33.02 It shall be the goal of the case flow rules and the overall management of the docket by the Common Pleas Court that 90 percent of all civil cases should be settled, tried, or otherwise concluded within 12 months of filing; 98 percent within 18 months of filing; and 100 percent within 24 months of filing, except for individual cases where the Court determines exceptional circumstances exist.