

**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.

MISCELLANEOUS RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

RULE 90 - SECURITY - [5/23/95]

90.01 Appropriate levels of security must exist in the Court to protect the integrity of Court procedures, protect the rights of persons before it, deter those who would take violent action against such persons or the Court, sustain the proper decorum and dignity of the Court and assure that Court facilities are secure for all those who visit and work there.

90.02 In order to achieve those appropriate levels of security the Court shall:

- a. Because of the common entry ways to other governmental agencies in the Hall of Justice, County Court House and Municipal Court, coordinate all its efforts with the Franklin County Commissioners and other activities in particular with the Municipal Court;
- b. In coordination with the Municipal Court, establish a Local Security Advisory Committee consisting of the following groups: Judges, the Franklin County Commissioners, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the Columbus Police Department, the Columbus Bar Association, the Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Franklin County Clerk of Court. The representatives from the foregoing groups shall, to the degree possible, be the same as those who serve on the Local Security Advisory Committee for the Municipal Court;
- c. Implement a Local Security Policy and Procedure Plan which addresses the Ohio Court Security Standards adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio on October 17, 1994. Prepare a Local Security Operations Manual, which establishes written directions for the purpose of ensuring security within the Court while maintaining accessibility to it.